REPORT ON FLOODING AND FLOOD RELATED DAMAGES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY DECEMBER 31, 1996 TO JANUARY 27, 1997

Santa Clara Valley Water District

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REPORT ON FLOODING AND FLOOD RELATED DAMAGES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

DECEMBER 31, 1996 TO JANUARY 27, 1997

Prepared by

Maria Matthews
Flood Management Policy and Planning Unit

With Assistance From

Hydrology and Geology Services Unit

Hydrologic Systems Section

JANUARY 1998

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INTRODUCTION

On December 31, 1996, a major storm entered California dumping up to 9 inches of rain in the Santa Cruz mountains through New Year's Day. Flooding damage was widespread. Forty-two counties were declared disaster areas in California due to the New Year's storm of 1997. In the Central Valley, nearly 300 square miles of land were inundated, and an estimated 32,000 homes and businesses had been damaged or destroyed. Total damages were calculated at nearly $2 billion. Yosemite National Park was closed for almost 2 months for repairs. President Clinton declared Santa Clara County and the City of Morgan Hill disaster areas. In south Santa Clara County, eight families were displaced. Uvas Creek in Gilroy peaked at its highest level in 10 years. Highway 152, a major artery between Gilroy and Watsonville, was closed due to mud slides.

Another storm hit California the weekend of January 25. The Central Valley again suffered flooding from several levee breaks. Although the storm was weaker than expected, saturated ground and continued runoff contributed to flooding in Santa Clara County. Seven Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) reservoirs were spilling, including Anderson Reservoir which holds 89,073 acre-feet of water. Coyote Creek overbanked with record flow causing flooding from Morgan Hill to San Jose. Two hundred people were evacuated from neighborhoods along Coyote Creek.

Approximate flooded areas have been mapped and are included in Appendix B for general flooding information only. A few representative photos are also included in Appendix B. Photo identification numbers, example: S5039-75, follow the description of each photo.

The statistical recurrence frequencies of peak flows for the creeks that flooded in the two storm periods varied from less than 2 to 35 years. Throughout the report, reference is made to "4-year floods," "10-year floods," or "100-year floods." This is a shorthand description of flood events and does not mean that flooding will occur every 4 years, 10 years, or 100 years, but rather that this frequency of occurrence could be expected statistically on the average over a period of many years. The frequency is also often expressed as a percentage. A 100-year flood is said to be a 1 percent flood—a flood having a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year. A 100-year criterion is commonly used for flood protection design. It is estimated that damages would approach $2 billion in Santa Clara County as a result of the 100-year flood or 1 percent event.

The District owns and operates ten reservoirs in Santa Clara County having a combined storage capacity of about 170,000 acre-feet. These reservoirs were authorized and built for the purpose of conserving local water resources. The reservoirs have spillways designed to safely carry into the creek channels high flows which would otherwise overtop the dams. An empty reservoir, or one partially full, will obviously hold back some of the flood flows from upstream but even a full reservoir has a flood attenuating function. The water flowing into the reservoir cannot move through and out the spillway until it has ponded, spread out over the surface of the lake, and thus raised the whole lake level. The result is a delay and a reduction (attenuation) of peak flows downstream of the reservoir. Often reservoirs can eliminate the flood threat but at the very least they will attenuate the flood stage. Although built and operated for water conservation purposes, the District's reservoirs are an integral part of the flood protection system in Santa Clara County.

WEATHER

On December 31, 1996, and January 1, 1997, a storm nicknamed the "Pineapple Express," because of its supposed Hawaiian origin, caused flooding in many communities in California. It was an unusually slow moving storm. Instead of being pushed by the jet stream—high altitude, high-speed winds—as many storms to hit California are, it was running parallel to the jet stream. On December 26, 1997, three of the District's ten reservoirs were spilling, and another was nearing capacity. Weather forecasts on December 27 confirmed the potential for heavy rains during the coming week. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch at 3:30 a.m., January 1. The storm's "bull's eye" in Santa Clara County was Uvas Reservoir, where 9.5 inches of rain fell in 48 hours beginning early on January 1, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Another storm threatened to wreak havoc in California in late January. On January 26, 1997, winter storm warnings were in effect in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the San Francisco Bay Area was on flash flood watch, and a flood warning was in effect for the Russian and Napa Rivers. The storm turned out to be weaker than expected but still dropped 7 inches of rain on the watershed above the Almaden and Guadalupe Reservoirs and 2 to 4 inches on the Coyote Creek watershed. Rainfall for January 25 to 27 is illustrated in Figure 2.

Rainfall and streamflow data for the above storm periods, along with historical data, are contained in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Figure 3 illustrates the recorded and estimated streamflow hydrographs at various locations along Coyote Creek. It shows how the rainfall amounts generate an increase in the streamflow, how the hydrograph rises and falls as it moves down the creek, and at what times and flowrates flooding began.

FLOODING—DECEMBER 31, 1996, TO JANUARY 1, 1997

Southern Santa Clara County suffered the brunt of the flooding from the New Year's storm. There were no reports of flooding in the north county area. Creeks in the south overbanked and storm drain systems in some areas were at capacity and spilling back into creeks. Twenty families in San Martin were assisted by the Red Cross. As of January 8, Morgan Hill city officials reported damage from flooding to as many as 50 structures, at an estimated cost of $150,000. Highway 152 over Hecker Pass was closed due to rock and mud slides. Highway 101, south of Gilroy, was closed due to flooding.

SOUTH ZONE

West Little Llagas Creek

Flooding was observed at Tilton Avenue and at the Llagas Road crossing. Overbanking caused extensive street flooding on Llagas Creek Drive. One house on the northeast corner of Llagas Road and Llagas Creek Drive was flooded despite sandbagging in the front of the house. Streets in the vicinity of Llagas Road and Shadowbrook Way were flooded but houses remained high and dry. Extensive flooding to a depth of approximately 2½ feet was observed at the intersection of Hale Avenue and Wright Avenue. Two houses at Hale Avenue and West Main Avenue flooded. Depth of flooding in the street at this location was about 1½ feet. Water surrounded the Countryside Day Care on West Main Street. Street flooding was observed throughout downtown Morgan Hill. The local storm drain systems were overflowing and unable to discharge into the flooding creek. The Maple Leaf RV Park experienced extensive flooding. An estimated 130 recreational vehicles were moved to the local high school and an emergency shelter was established in Morgan Hill City Hall. Flooding occurred near Middle Avenue and Monterey Highway and caused damage to 17 homes.

Tennant-Corralitos Creek

Flooding occurred along Colombet Avenue in San Martin.

Llagas Creek

Overbanking was observed at Masten Avenue.

FLOODING—JANUARY 26 TO 27, 1997

The January 26 to 27 storm caused flooding, mud and rock slides, and forced evacuation around the state. A portion of Highway 101 in San Jose was closed due to flooding. Highway 152 remained closed due to rock and mud slides from the New Year's storm. The amount of rainfall recorded in Santa Clara County ranged from 1 to 5 inches in 48 hours. Rainfall intensities varied up to a 13-year return period. Estimated damages exceeded $6 million for the county.

EAST ZONE

Coyote Creek

Coyote Creek overbanked in numerous locations from Morgan Hill to San Jose. On January 26, 1997, parts of William Street Park were under 3 feet of water. Several houses located in low areas on the west side of Coyote Creek, north of William Street, were inundated by 6 feet or more of water. Three homes were substantially damaged. Many houses next to Coyote Creek along Arroyo Way and South 17th Street had water under their houses. Three houses on South 17th Street were flooded. The house sustaining the worst damage was evacuated during the early morning hours of January 26 and was eventually flooded to a depth of about 8 feet. The lower unit of a two-level dwelling was flooded to a depth of about 3 feet and was evacuated the evening of the 26th. The third dwelling sustained flood damage to a storage area under the house. At the Southern Pacific Railroad track, near the South Bay Mobile Home Park, water escaped the channel, flowed into the railroad right of way, and flooded some low areas of the mobile home park before emergency crews and local residents were able to complete a sandbag levee across the railroad tracks. The auto yard of the Pick-N-Pull Auto Wreckers on Commercial Street, north of Berryessa Road, was flooded to a depth of about 4 feet. Watson Park, including the community center and public restrooms on the west side of the park, were under 2 to 5 feet of water. The park was closed for several days for cleanup. Jackson Street between Coyote Creek and North 22nd Street was submerged under 2 to 3 feet of water. Highway 101 flooded when Coyote Creek floodwater flowed back through a storm drain pump station. The highway had to be closed while Caltrans crews tried to stop the flow and drain the highway. The owners of Carroll's Ranch (on Senter Road, upstream of Tully Road) had to evacuate all their horses the night of January 26, when their barn flooded. Floodwaters were approximately 4 feet deep during the evacuation. The ground floor units of 20 multidwelling units in the Rock Springs neighborhood were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. In a new development on Brookwood Drive, the townhomes escaped flooding but the garages had about a foot of water in them. Several areas in Kelly Park flooded. In some picnic areas, there was 6 feet of water. The Koi Fish Pond and Tea House at the Japanese Friendship Garden were flooded. Floodwaters were 2 feet deep in the Tea House. The Koi were rescued prior to the ponds flooding. The Happy Hollow Zoo was partially flooded and some animals kept near Coyote Creek needed to be moved. Floodwaters rose to the top of the backboards of the basketball courts in the lower athletic fields of the San Jose Christian College.

SOUTH ZONE

West Little Llagas Creek

At Monterey Road and Watsonville Road, water flowed across the roadway but was passable by vehicular traffic. The Maple Leaf RV Park had major flow through its local internal drainage system.

East Little Llagas Creek

Four to six inches of water flowed over Seymour Avenue and Llagas Road. A home to the east of Llagas Avenue experienced major flood damage.

Corralitos Creek

Standing water was observed on East Middle Avenue between Corralitos Creek and Sycamore Avenue.

San Martin Creek

Colombet Avenue from San Martin Avenue to Masten Avenue flooded. The flooding was most severe at the bridge crossings.

Llagas Creek

A residence southwest of the intersection of Colombet Avenue and Masten Avenue was flooded. Fields on both sides of Bloomfield Road flooded. Standing water was 2 to 3 feet deep in some areas.

Dexter Creek

Runoff from fields and overflow from Jones Creek contributed to flooding downstream of Dexter Creek at Pacheco Pass Road.

Uvas-Carnadero Creek

At the intersection of Uvas Creek and Bloomfield Avenue, fields on both sides of the road were flooded in some areas to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Highway 101 was closed due to flooding when the creek overflowed at the south end of Gilroy.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND POST-FLOOD SUMMARY

Preliminary estimates of damages were $150,000 for the December 31, 1996, to January 3, 1997, event and $6,000,000 for the January 23 to 29, 1997, event. Damage estimates are attached in Appendix A.

The District, with assistance from the Cities of Morgan Hill and San Jose, conducted several post-flood public meetings to solicit input on the extent and impact of the flooding. The compilation of questions asked at these meetings and the responses are contained in Appendix D.

TABLE 1

RAINFALL AMOUNTS AND RETURN PERIODS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FOR THE DECEMBER 29, 1996 - JANUARY 1, 1997 EVENT

STATION	6 HOURS		24 HOURS		48 HOURS	
	INCHES*	YEARS**	INCHES*	YEARS**	INCHES*	YEARS**
City of San Jose	0.83	5	1.15	8	2.17	41
Alamitos	1.03	<2	1.77	<2	2.87	3
Mt Umunhum	2.52	3	6.65	19	9.45	53
Lexington	2.01	<2	3.86	3	5.83	2
Uvas	2.33	4	5.40	10	8.23	N/A***
Coyote	1.69	11	4.14	41	6.46	N/A***
Calero	1.50	<2	3.07	2	4.41	3
Palo Alto	0.67	<2	1.18	<2	1.85	<2
Stevens Creek	1.11	<2	2.67	<2	3.97	<2
Mt. Hamilton	1.19	<2	2.72	2	4.61	5
Haskins	0.71	<2	1.10	<2	1.97	<2
Evergreen	0.83	<2	1.23	8	2.36	N/A***
Anderson	1.50	3	3.15	8	4.29	8
Coe Park	1.38	<2	3.23	3	5.24	6
Coit	0.98	<2	2.72	3	4.37	6
Castro Valley	1.93	4	3.66	5	5.35	N/A***

***Total rainfall received over 6, 24, or 48 hour period. **Return period (average frequency of occurrence).**
*****Not available**

TABLE 2

RAINFALL AMOUNTS AND RETURN PERIODS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FOR THE JANUARY 23 -29, 1997 EVENT

STATION	6 HOURS		24 HOURS		48 HOURS	
	INCHES*	YEARS**	INCHES*	YEARS**	INCHES*	YEARS**
City of San Jose	0.43	<2	0.90	4	1.46	7
Alamitos	0.79	<2	1.54	<2	2.52	2
Johnson	0.98	<2	2.09	<2	3.27	2
Mt Umunhum	1.77	<2	3.31	<2	5.19	2
Lexington	1.73	<2	3.03	<2	4.73	<2
Uvas	1.10	<2	2.16	<2	3.15	<2
Coyote	0.83	<2	1.85	<2	2.99	3
Guadalupe	2.68	5	5.67	20	7.91	20
Almaden	1.46	<2	2.56	<2	3.98	<2
Calero	1.18	<2	2.79	<2	4.22	3
Palo Alto	0.51	<2	1.10	<2	1.42	<2
Dahl	1.22	<2	2.04	<2	3.15	<2
Maryknoll	1.14	<2	1.85	<2	2.72	2
Mt. View	0.74	<2	1.33	<2	1.89	<2
West Yard	0.83	<2	1.50	<2	2.29	<2
Stevens Creek	1.26	<2	2.13	<2	3.31	<2
Penitencia	0.43	<2	0.87	<2	1.58	<2
Mt. Hamilton	1.06	<2	2.01	<2	3.08	<2
Haskins	0.71	<2	1.10	<2	1.97	<2
Evergreen	0.67	<2	1.06	4	1.70	13
U.T.C.	0.95	2	1.81	<2	3.03	5
Anderson	0.86	<2	1.77	<2	2.99	<2
Coe Park	1.06	<2	2.28	<2	3.62	2
Coit	1.58	3	2.60	2	4.06	4
Castro Valley	0.59	<2	1.34	<2	2.05	<2
Peabody	0.51	<2	1.10	<2	1.85	<2

***Total rainfall received over 6, 24, or 48 hour period. **Return period (average frequency of occurrence).**

TABLE 3
Historic Maximum Rainfall Events

Station No.	Name	24-Hour Duration			
		Depth (in)	Year	Frequency (yr)	No. Years of Record
1453	San Jose City	4.55	1911	154	93
2099	Palo Alto	3.7	1967	141	39
2073	Anderson Reservoir	6	1963	145	42
2066	Johnson Ranch	5.8	1968	47	24
1523	Peabody	4	1956	39	60

TABLE

Preliminary Peak Flow Values for Various Streams in Santa Clara County During 1996-97

Flow in Cubic Feet per Second

Stream Gage # and Location		Preliminary Peak Flow		Return Period (Years)		1% Event	10% Event	Historic Peak		Records
		Jan. 1-2	Jan. 23-29	Jan. 1-2	Jan. 23-29	Flow (cfs)	Flow (cfs)	Flow (cfs)	Date	Began
1	Penitencia @ Piedmont	619	673	4	4	4,500	1,500	2,200	4/2/58	1939
16	Alamitos below Almaden Dam	1,080	860	8	7	3,500	1,300	2,000	12/23/55	1939
17	Guadalupe below Dam	384	427	30	35	920	230			1942
23b	Guadalupe @ Almaden Expy.	3,030	3,210	4	4	14,300	7,200	8,400	1/22-30/83	1975
25	Saratoga @ Pruneridge	215	108	1	1	4,100	2,700	2,300	02/19/80	1939
26A	Calabazas @ Wilcox	895	1,250	4	6	3,800	2,500	2,540	01/14/78	1976
33	Hale near Magdalena	107	N/A**	2	N/A**	1,100	460			1946
32A	Permanente @ Berry	265	275	2	2	2,800	1,500			1962
44	Stevens below Dam	708	578	3	2	5,500	2,800	1,420	12/23/55	1930
51	Ross @ Cherry	786	649	5	4	2,200	1,500	1,550	1/30/68	1957
58	Coyote @ Edenvale	1,760	N/A**	4	N/A**	15,000	4,800	10,000	02/10/22	1916
59	Los Gatos @ Lark	538	814	3	5	7,000	1,600	2,800	2/19/86	1970
67	Los Gatos Below Lexington	491	786	3	5	6,600	1,600	3,540	04/02/58	1930
69	Llagas Creek Below Chesbro	954	558	22	10	3,900	500	3,190	4/2/58	1950
77	Coyote above Coyote Dam	7,560	5,680	7	6	21,800	8,600			1983
81	Pacheco near Dunville	7,820	5,360	N/A**	N/A**	24,700	11,400			1983
82	Coyote near Madrone	467	6,280	2	40	15,000	550	25,000	*03/07/11	1902
83	Upper Pennitencia @ Dorel	700	754	5	6	4,300	1,300			1988
91	Saratoga @ Saratoga-USGS	820	526	4	3	3,500	1,900	2,730	12/22/58	1933
93	San Franciscquito-USGS	2,690	2,120	6	5	8,300	4,300	5,560	12/22/55	1930
	Guadalupe R. @ St. John-USGS	4,090	5,460	3	5			11,000	3/10/95	

NOTE: All 1% and 10% flow rates are based on the 1976 Design Flood flows Manual

*Historic peak was recorded before Anderson & Coyote Dam were built. **Not available

FIGURE 1

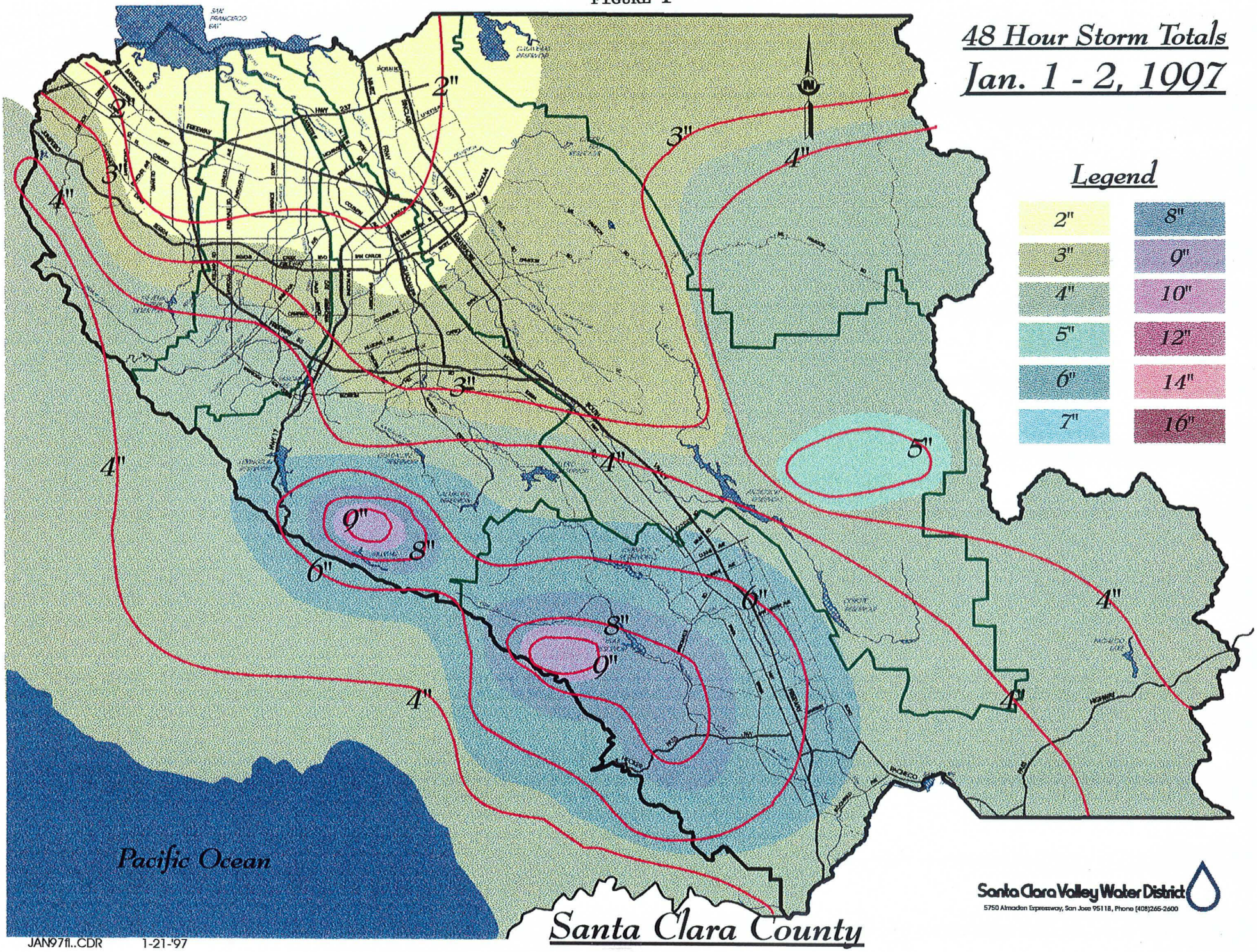
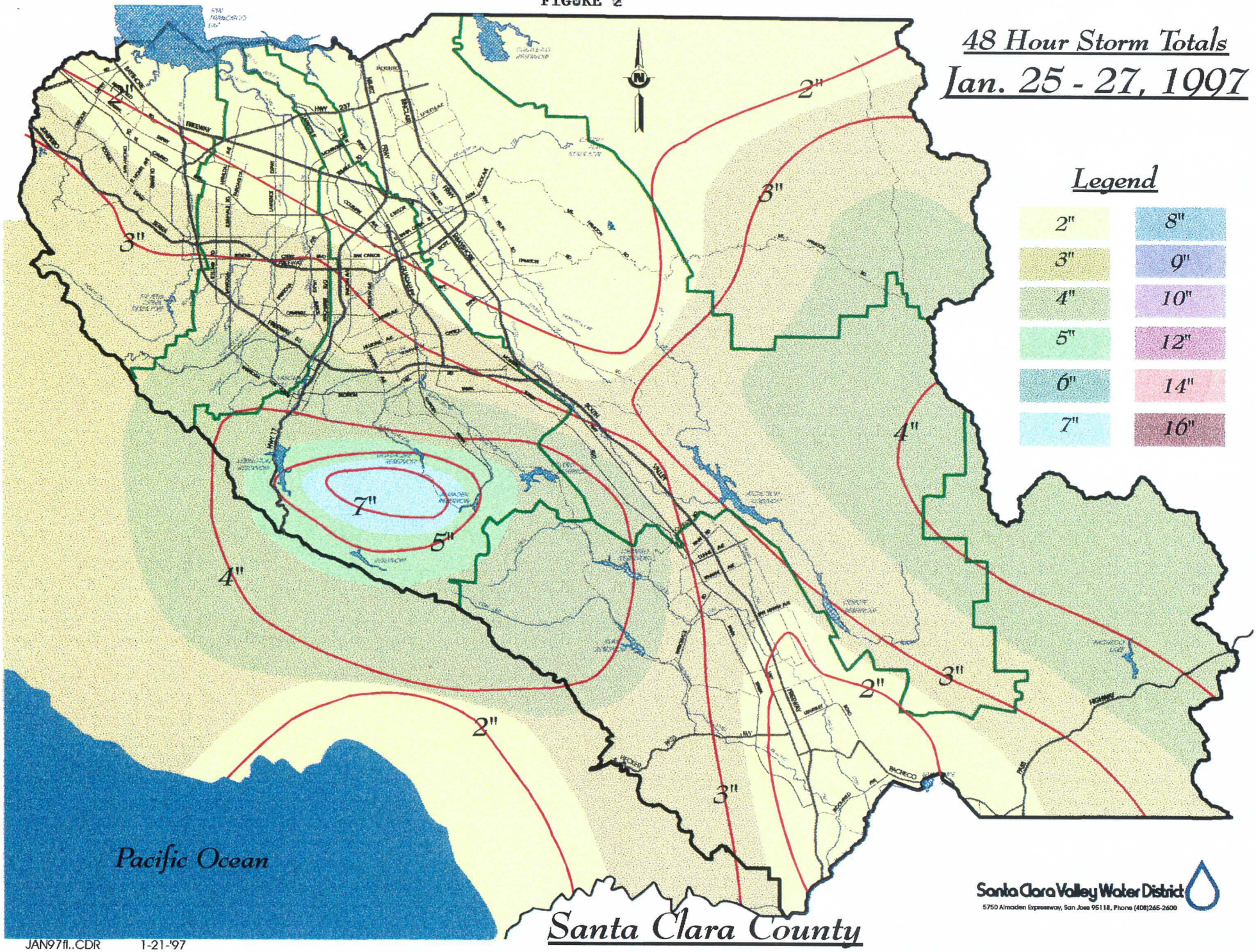

48 Hour Storm Totals
Jan. 1 - 2, 1997
Legend
2"
3"
4"
5"
6"
7"
8"
9"
10"
12"
14"
16"
Pacific Ocean
Santa Clara County
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose 95118, Phone (408)265-2600
JAN97fl..CDR 1-21-'97

FIGURE 2


48 Hour Storm Totals
Jan. 25 - 27, 1997
Legend
2"
3"
4"
5"
6"
7"
8"
9"
10"
12"
14"
16"
Pacific Ocean
Santa Clara County
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5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose 95118, Phone (408)265-2600
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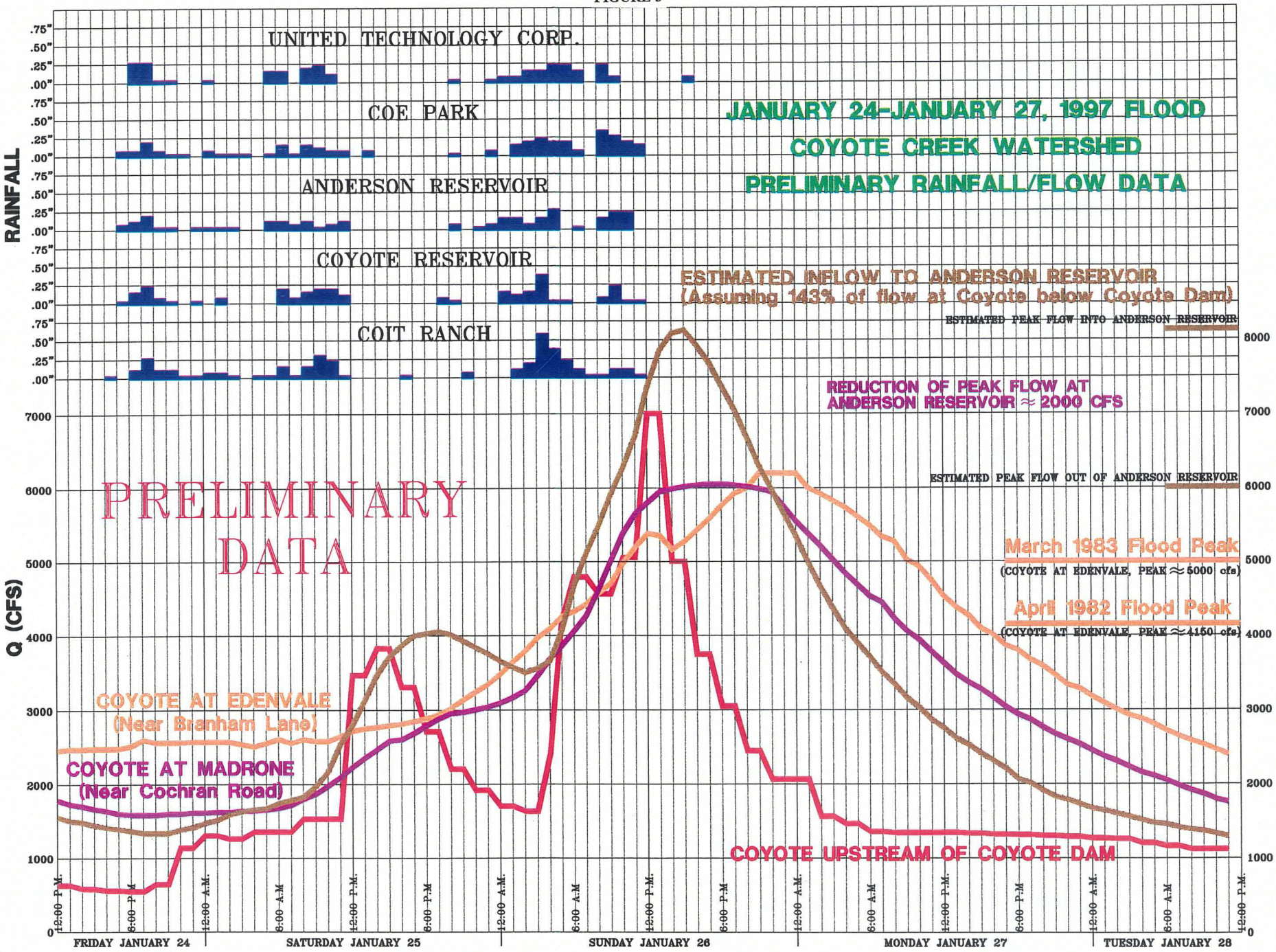
FIGURE 3


JANUARY 24-JANUARY 27, 1997 FLOOD
COYOTE CREEK WATERSHED
PRELIMINARY RAINFALL/FLOW DATA
RAINFALL
UNITED TECHNOLOGY CORP.
COE PARK
ANDERSON RESERVOIR
COYOTE RESERVOIR
COIT RANCH
.75"
.50"
.25"
.00"
Q (CFS)
ESTIMATED INFLOW TO ANDERSON RESERVOIR
(Assuming 143% of flow at Coyote below Coyote Dam)
ESTIMATED PEAK FLOW INTO ANDERSON RESERVOIR
REDUCTION OF PEAK FLOW AT
ANDERSON RESERVOIR ≈ 2000 CFS
ESTIMATED PEAK FLOW OUT OF ANDERSON RESERVOIR
PRELIMINARY
DATA
March 1983 Flood Peak
(COYOTE AT EDENVALE, PEAK ≈ 5000 cfs)
April 1982 Flood Peak
(COYOTE AT EDENVALE, PEAK ≈ 4150 cfs)
COYOTE AT EDENVALE
(Near Branham Lane)
COYOTE AT MADRONE
(Near Cochran Road)
COYOTE UPSTREAM OF COYOTE DAM
0
1000
2000
3000
4000
5000
6000
7000
8000
12:00 P.M.
6:00 P.M.
12:00 A.M.
6:00 A.M.
FRIDAY JANUARY 24
SATURDAY JANUARY 25
SUNDAY JANUARY 26
MONDAY JANUARY 27
TUESDAY JANUARY 28

APPENDIX A

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
INITIAL DAMGE ESTIMATE REPORT

Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Initial Damage Estimate Report

1. Event Name: DR-1155
2. Event Date: 12/28/96
3. Operational Area: Santa Clara
4. OES Region: Coastal
5. Declaration Level: Presidential
6. As Of: 01/15/97 07:39 PM
7. Situation: Storm and Flood damages

DECLARATIONS	a. Date Requested	b. Date Granted
8. Local:		1/07/97
9. Gubernatorial:	1/07/97	
10. Director's Concurrence:		
11. SBA:		
12. Presidential:	1/07/97	1/09/97

IA Damage	a. Destroyed	b. Major Damage	c. Minor Damage	d. Affected	e. Estimated Loss in $K
13. Homes:	0	0	15	500	$75
14. Mobiles:	0	1	0	40	$65
15. Business:	0	0	10	0	$50
16. Other:	0	0	0	0	$0
17. Totals:	0	1	25	540	$190

PA Category Damage (Do not include normal operating costs)	Number of Sites	Estimated Costs in $K
18. CAT A: Debris Clearance:	14	$77
19. CAT B: Emergency Protective Measures:	72	$532
20. CAT C: Road System Repairs:	10	$1000
21. CAT D: Water Control Facilities:	0	$0
22. CAT E: Buildings & Equipment:	0	$0
23. CAT F: Public Utility Systems:	0	$0

24. CAT G: Other (Not in above Categories):	0	$0
25. Totals:	96	$1609

Federal Program Damage	**Estimated Costs in $K**
26. Federal Highways (Title 23 Program): (For damages to federal highway systems)	$0
27. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PL 99): (For emergency flood control projects)	$0
28. Soil Conservation Service: (For emergency watershed rehabilitation)	$0
29. Other (Describe):	$0
30. Total:	$0

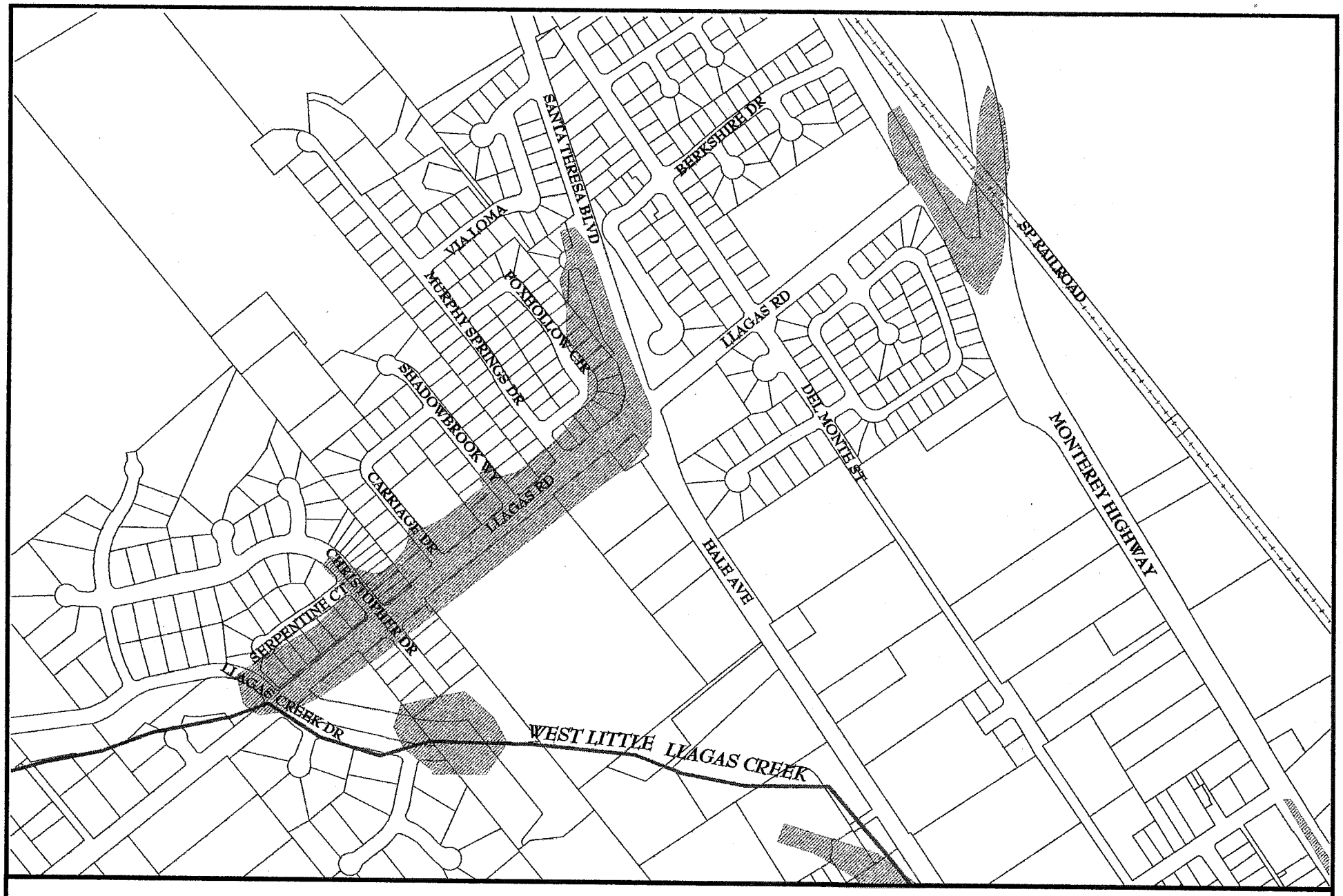
32. POINT OF CONTACT

a. Name: Rick Reed
b. Phone: (408) 299-3751
c. Fax Number: (408) 294-4851
d. Alternate: (408) 951-9806

APPENDIX B

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

JANUARY 1 - JANUARY 27, 1997 FLOODING MAPS

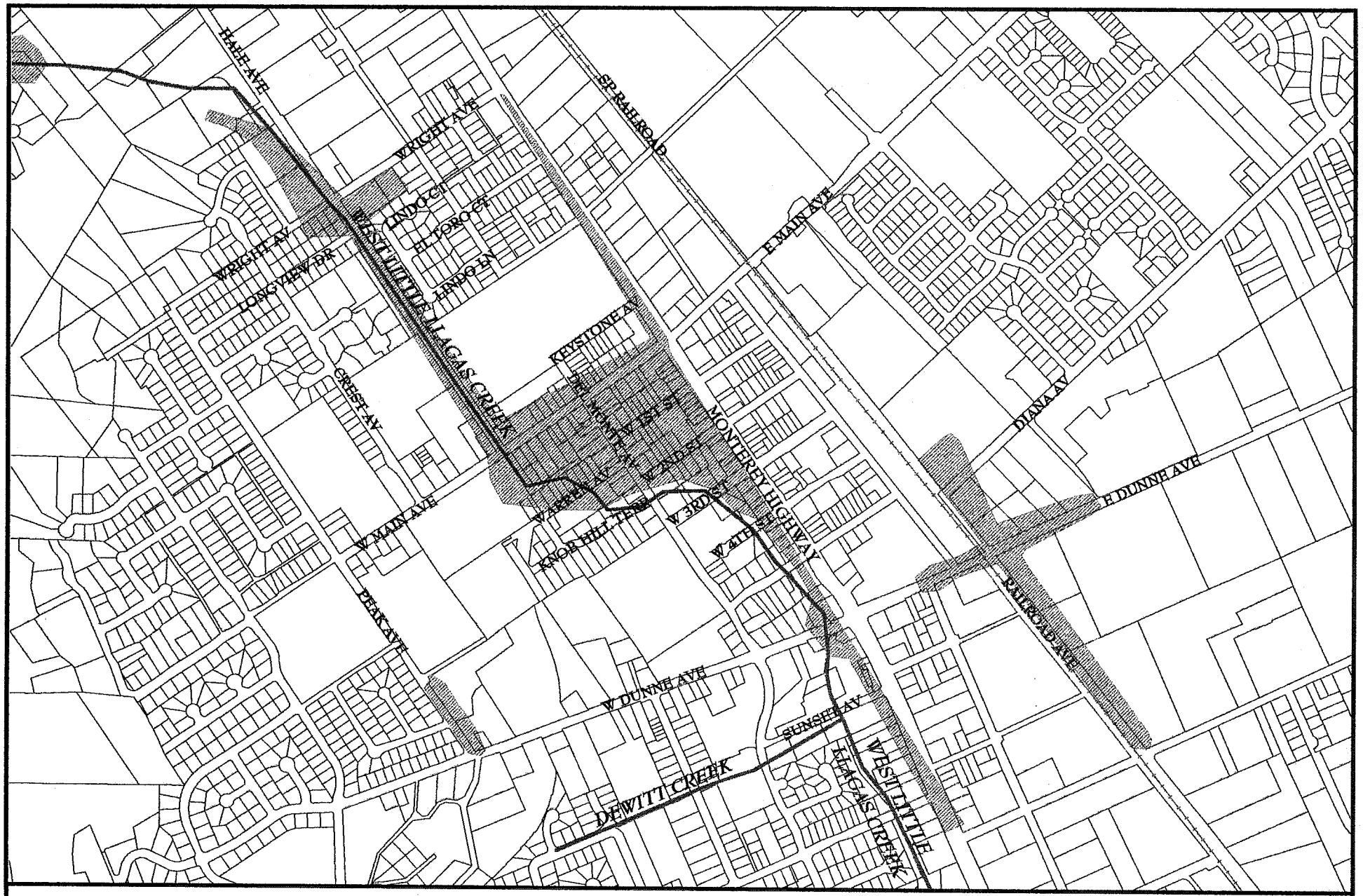


N

January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

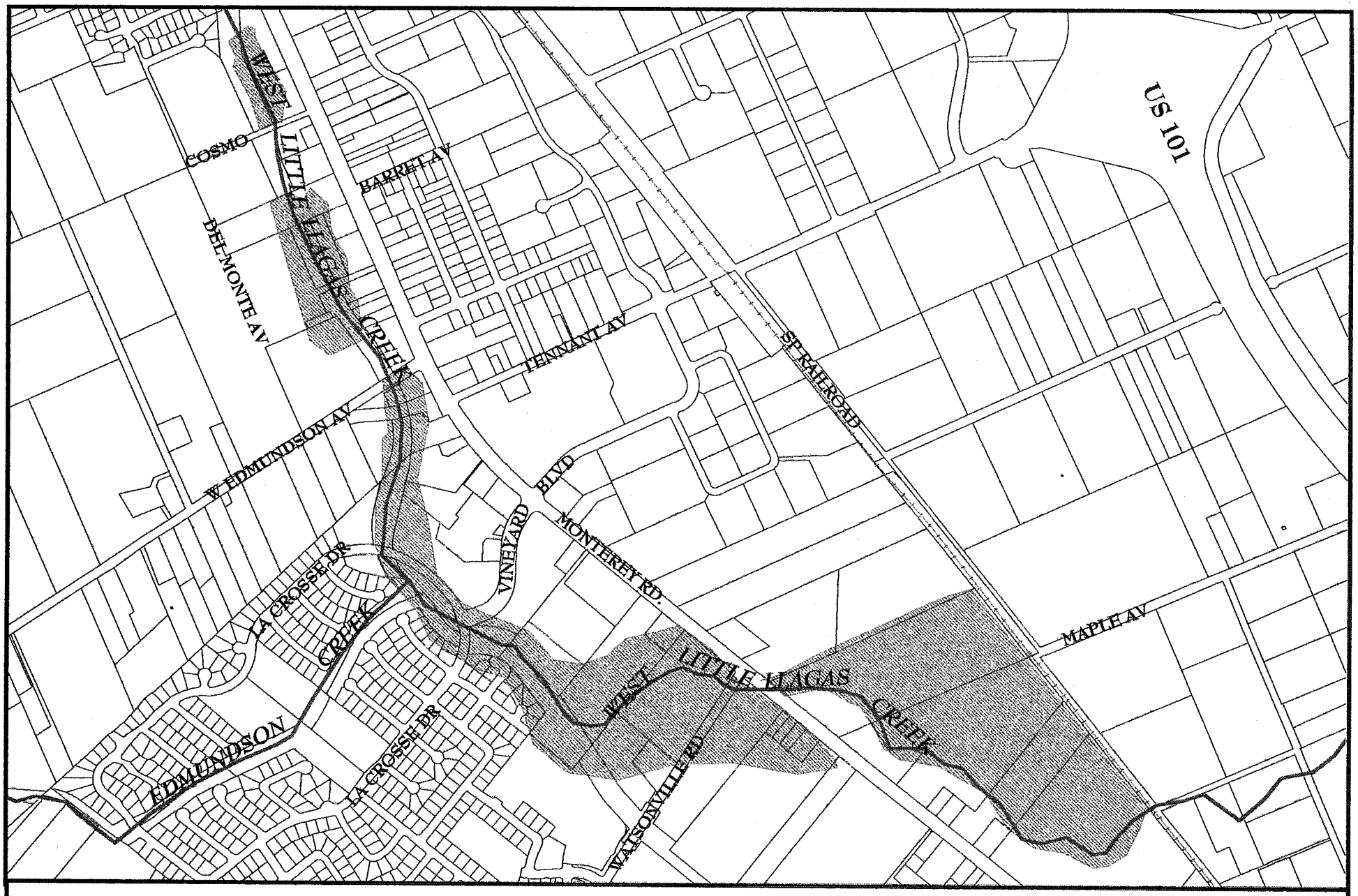
Not To Scale



January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

Not To Scale

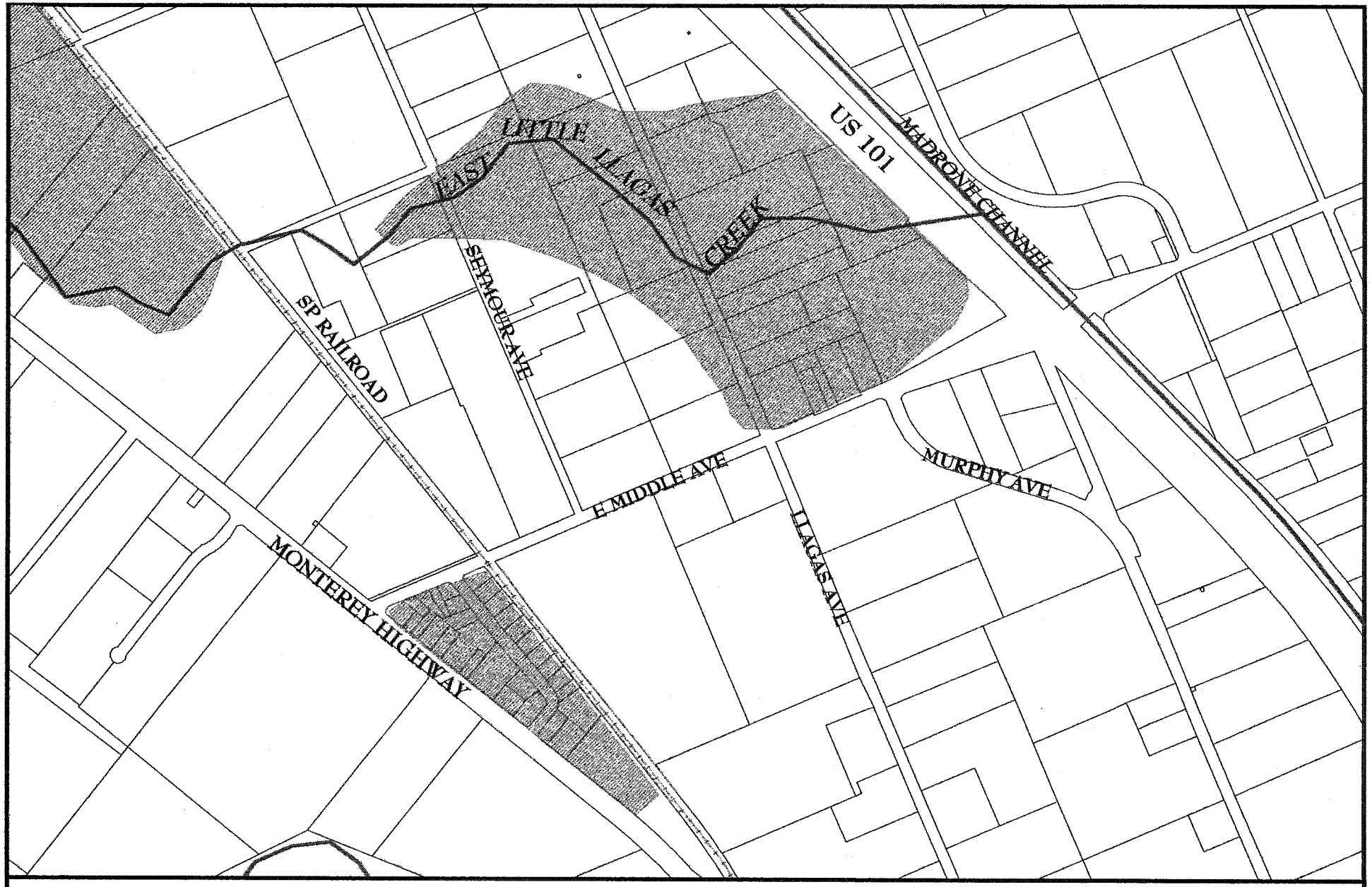


N

January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

Not To Scale



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January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

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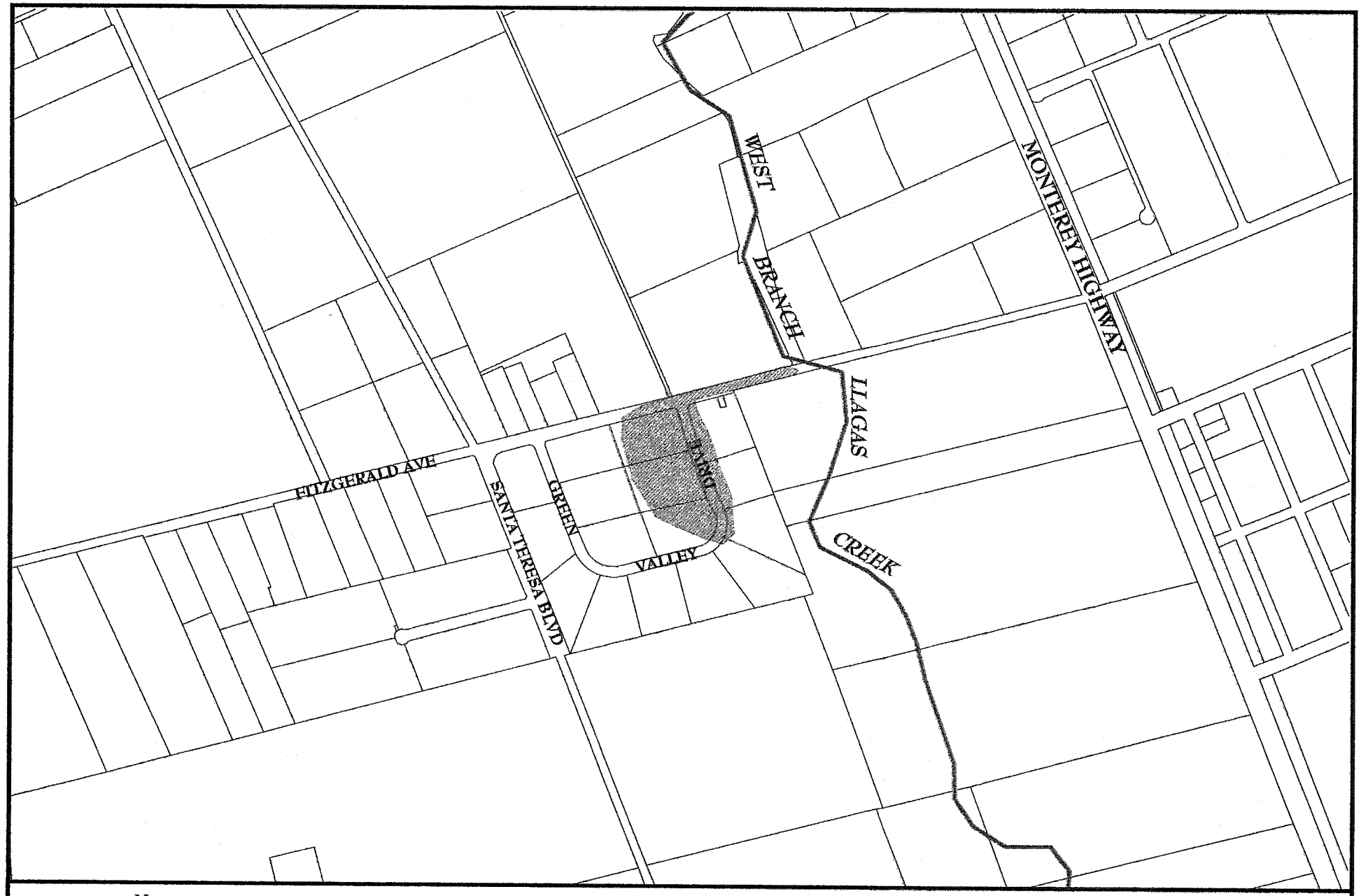

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January 1, 1997

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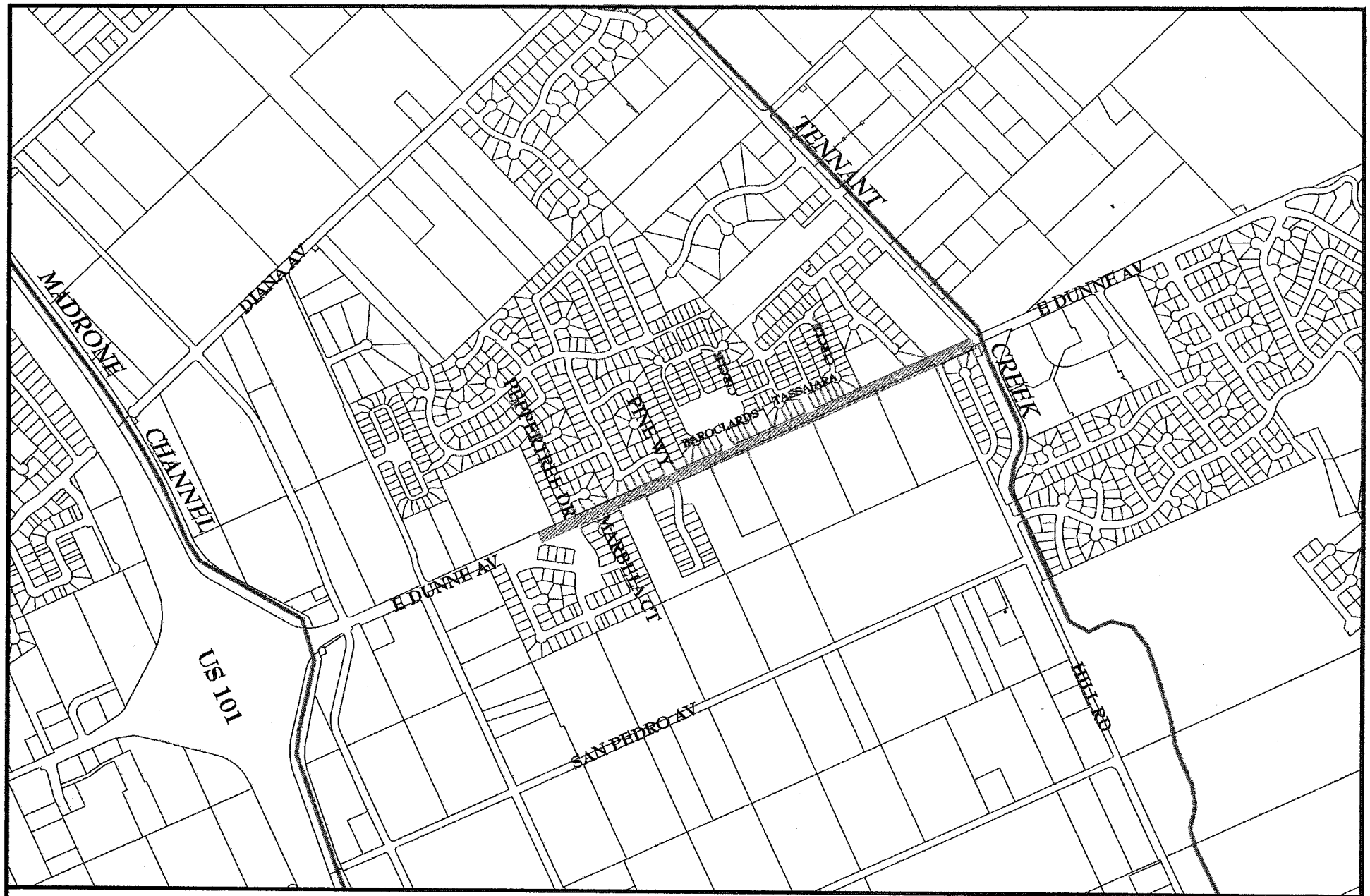

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January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

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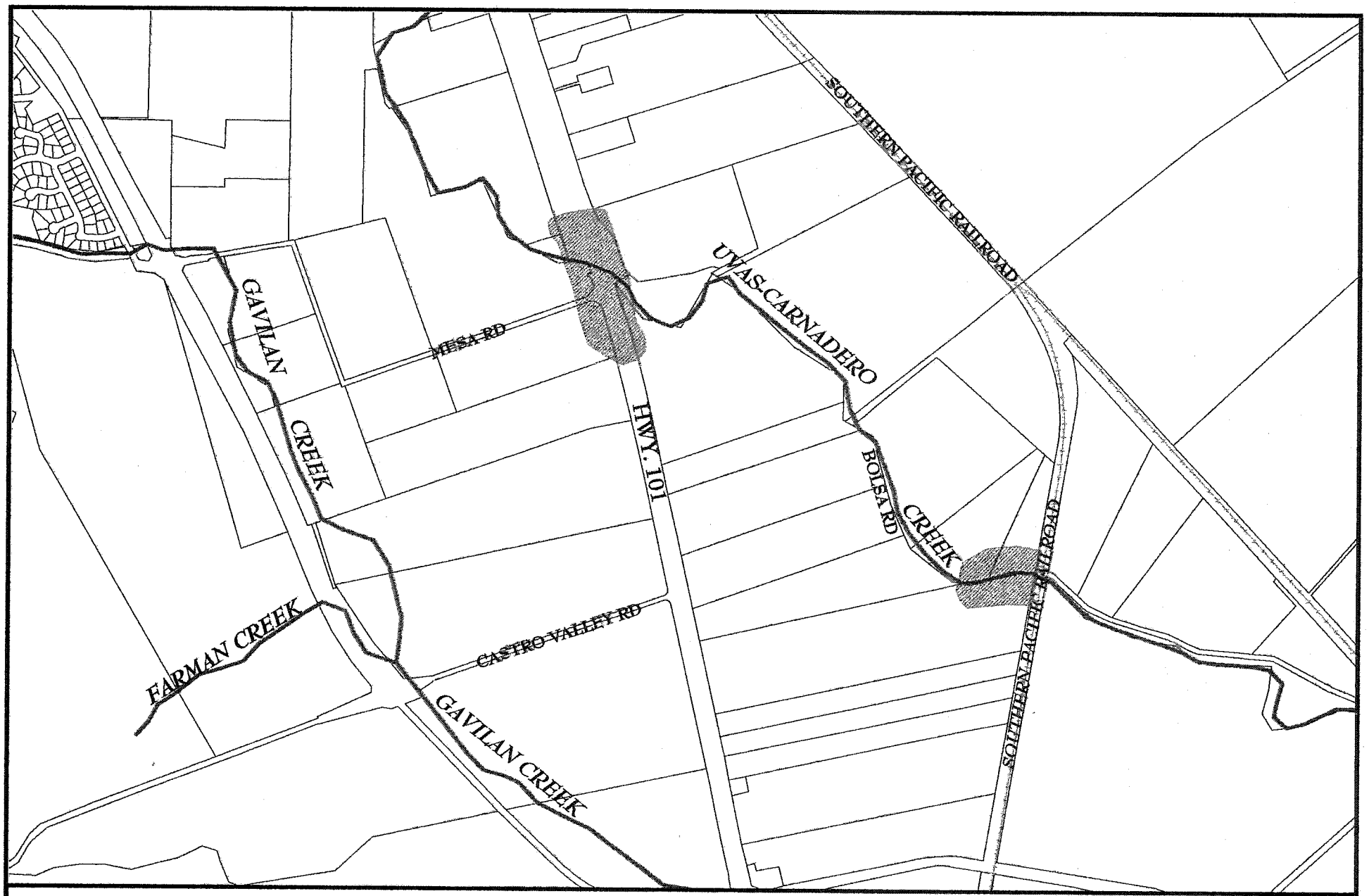

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January 1, 1997

Flooded Area

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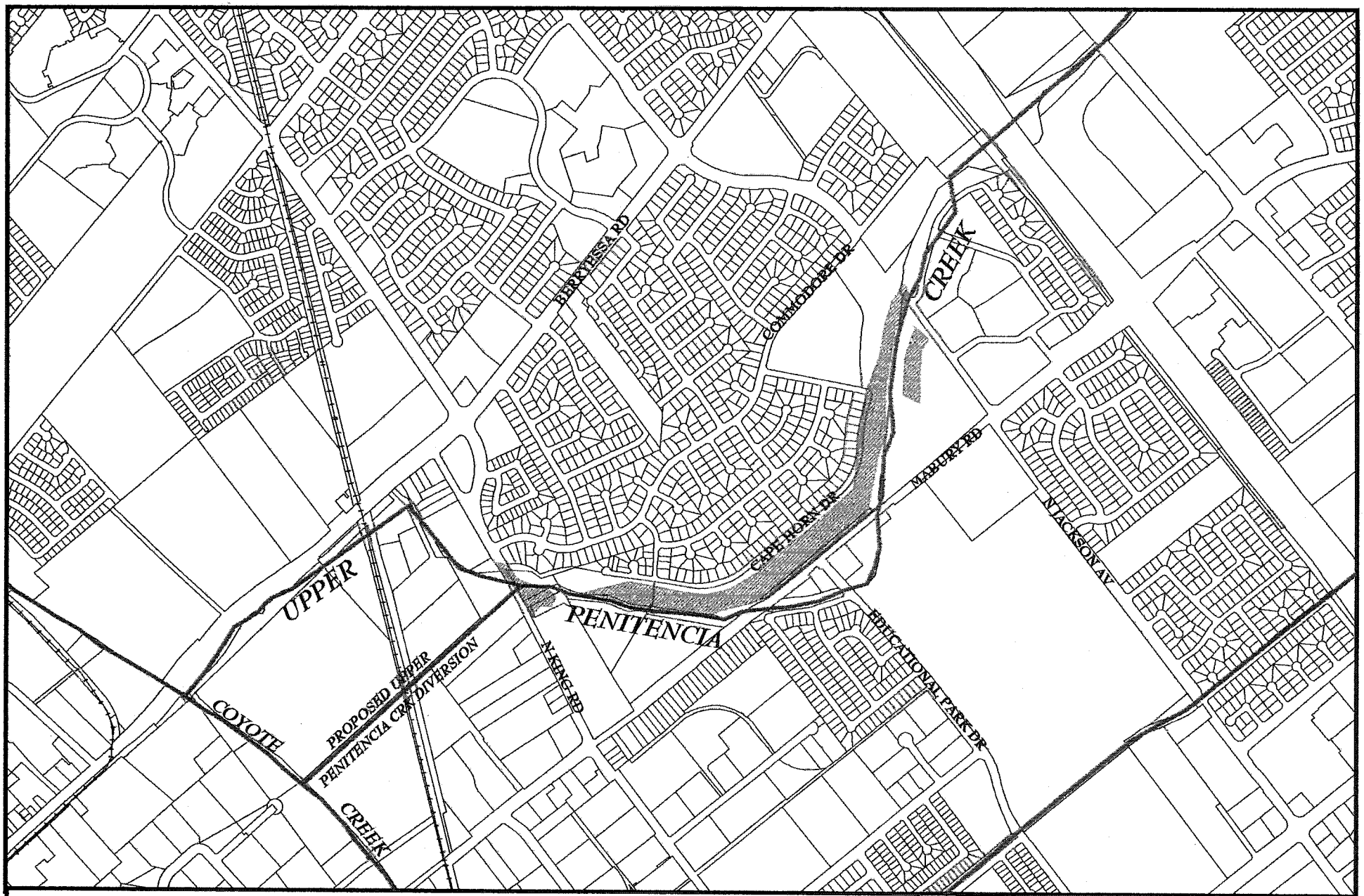

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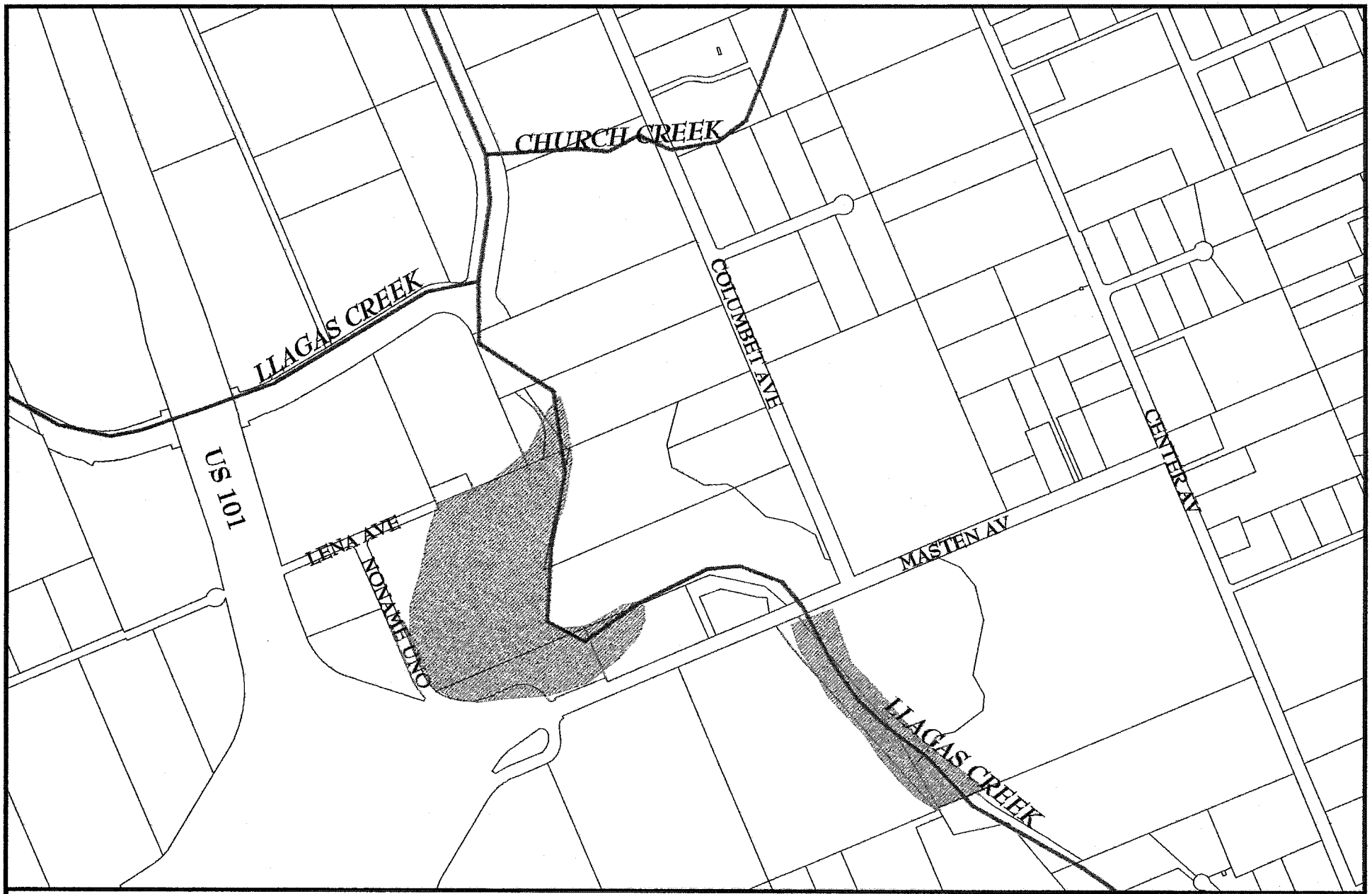
January 22, 1997

Flooded Area

Not To Scale



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January 27, 1997

Flooded Area

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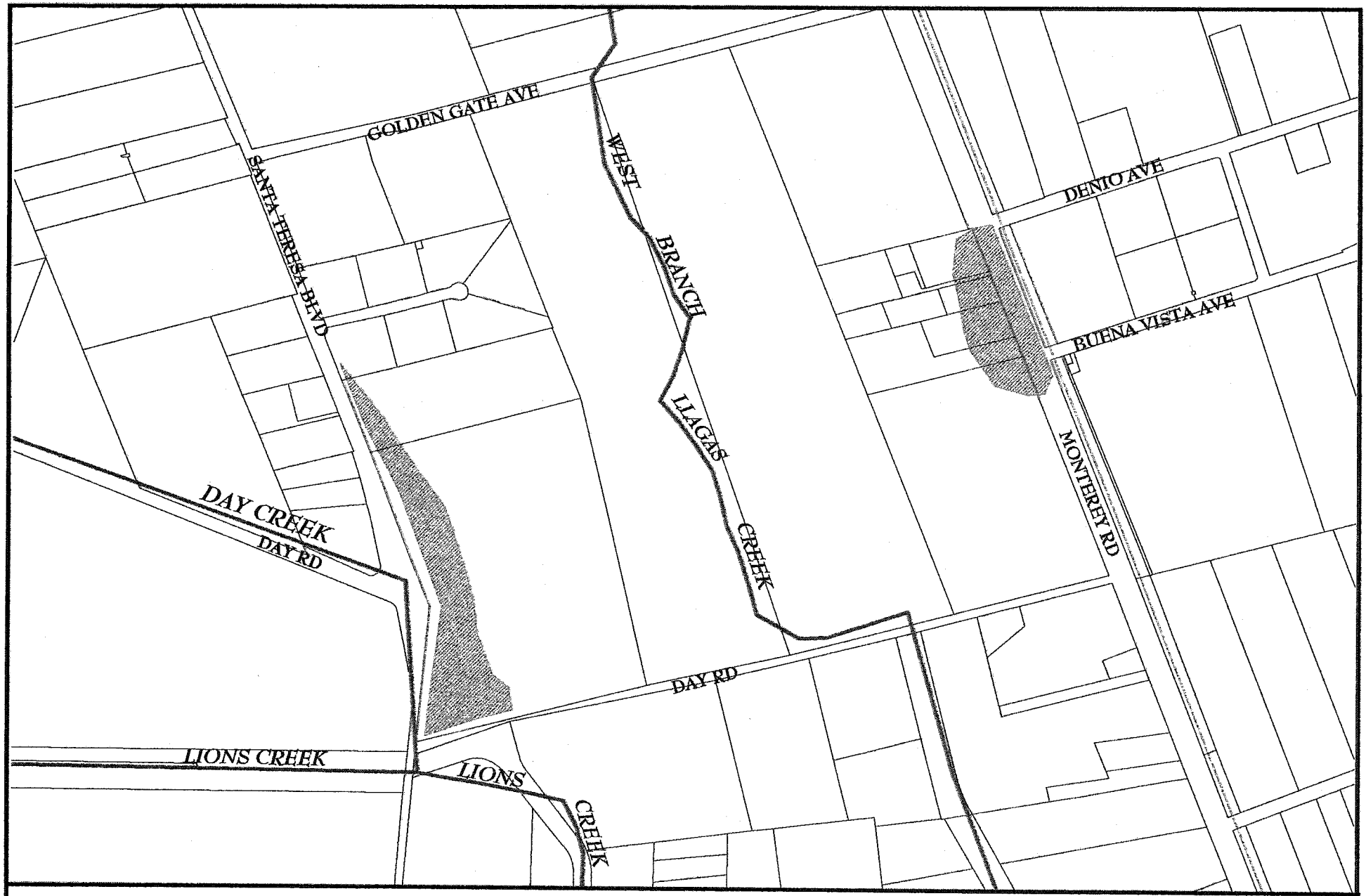

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January 27, 1997

Flooded Area

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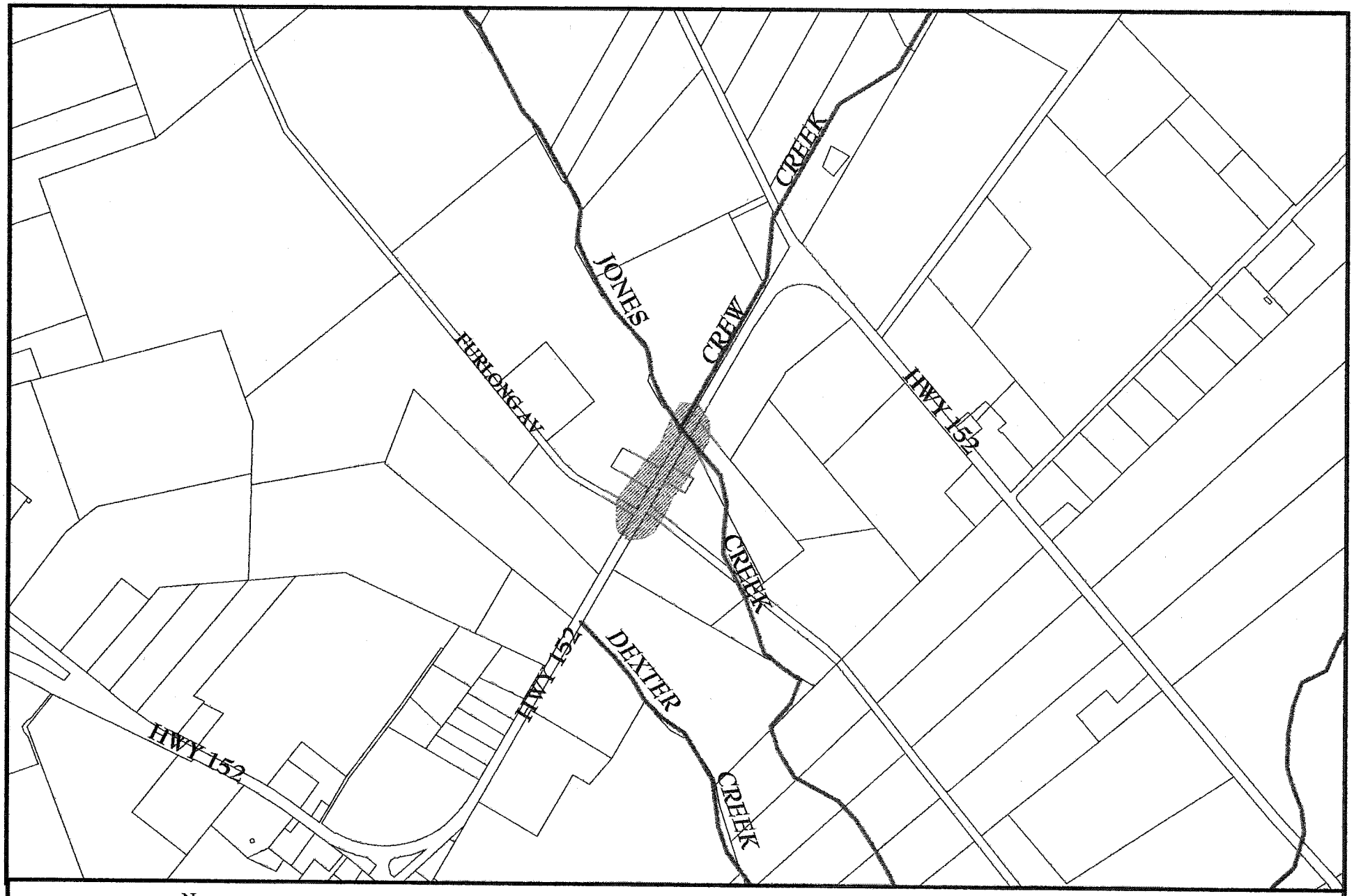

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January 27, 1997

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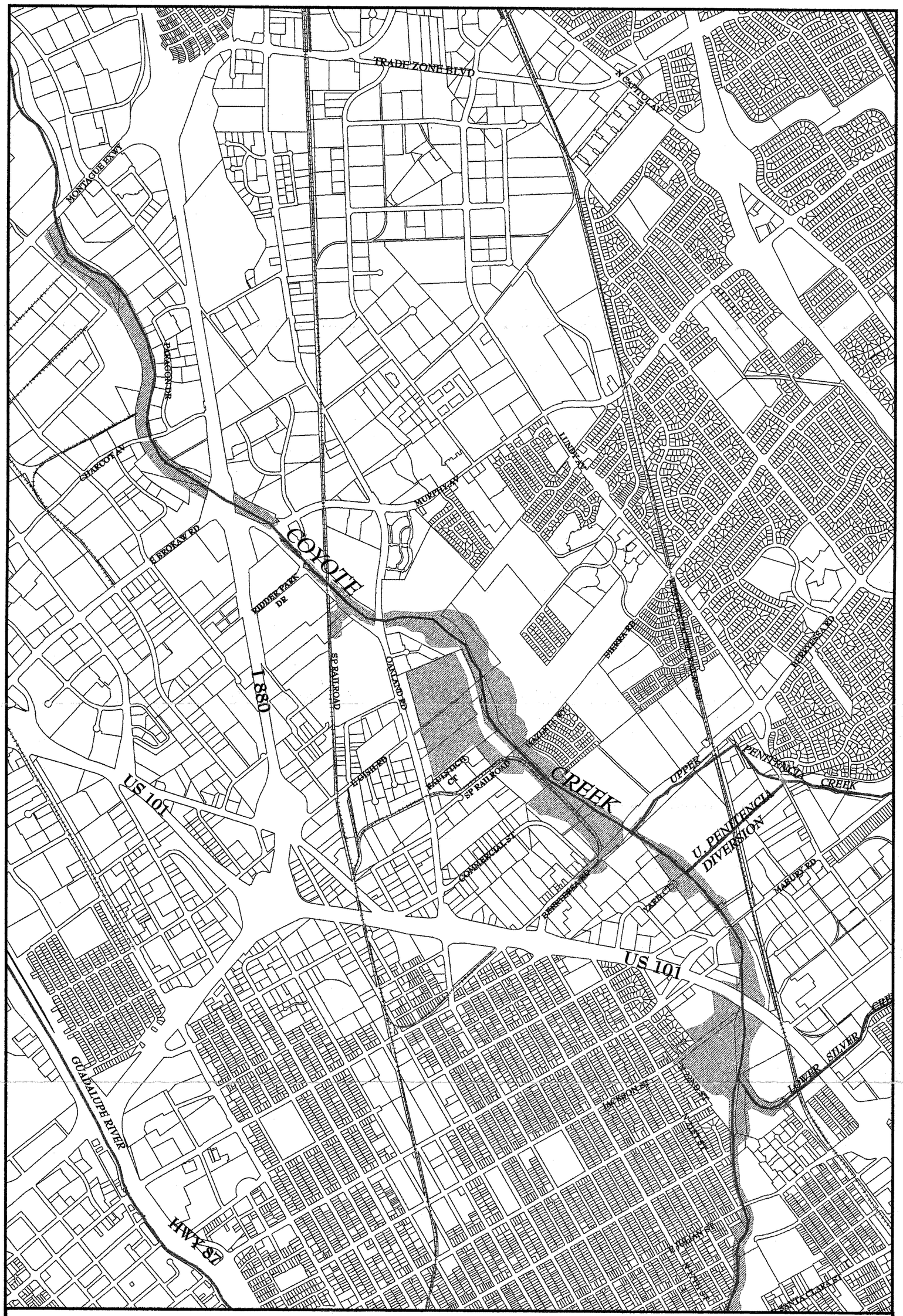

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January 27, 1997

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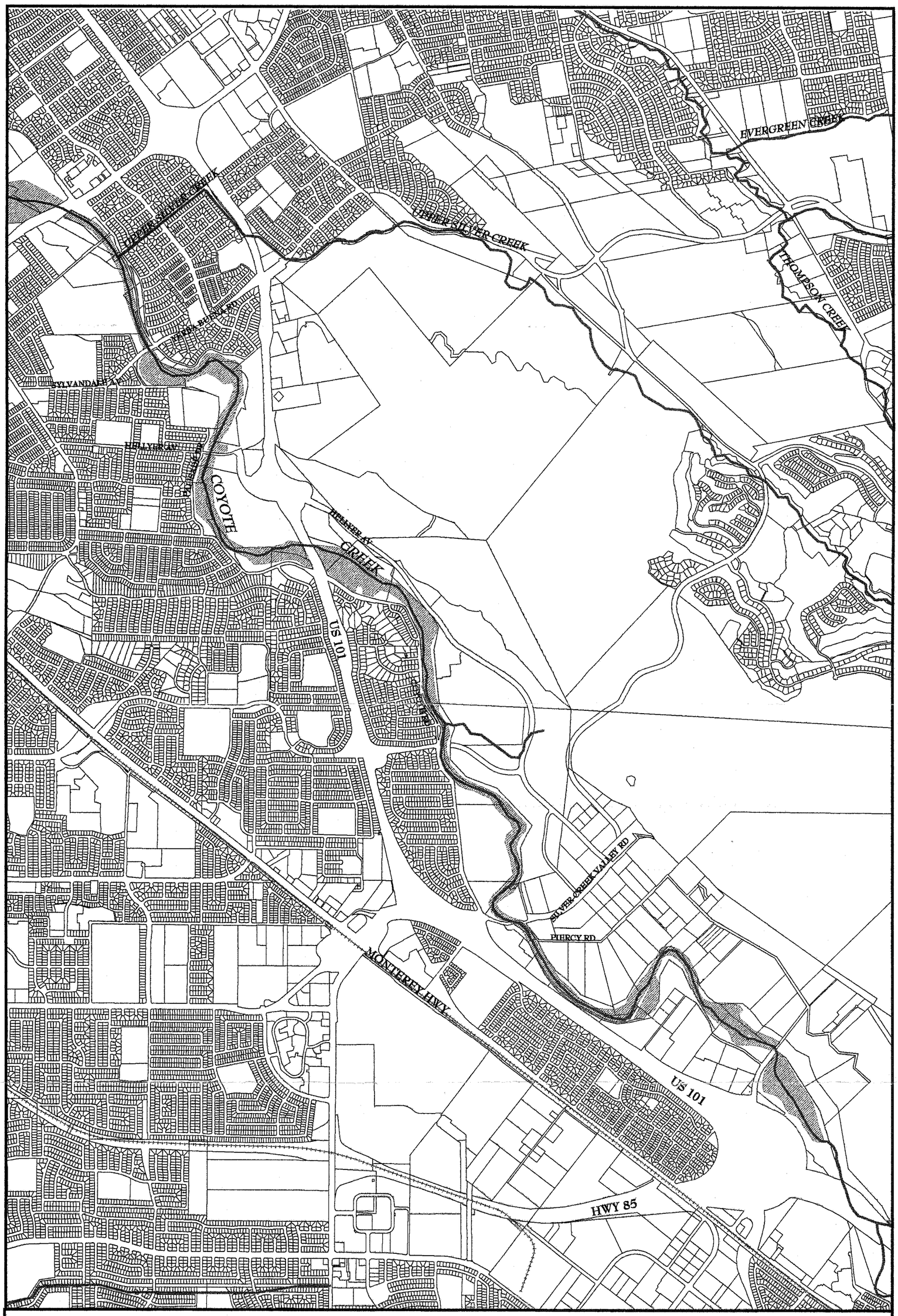

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January 27, 1997

Flooded Area

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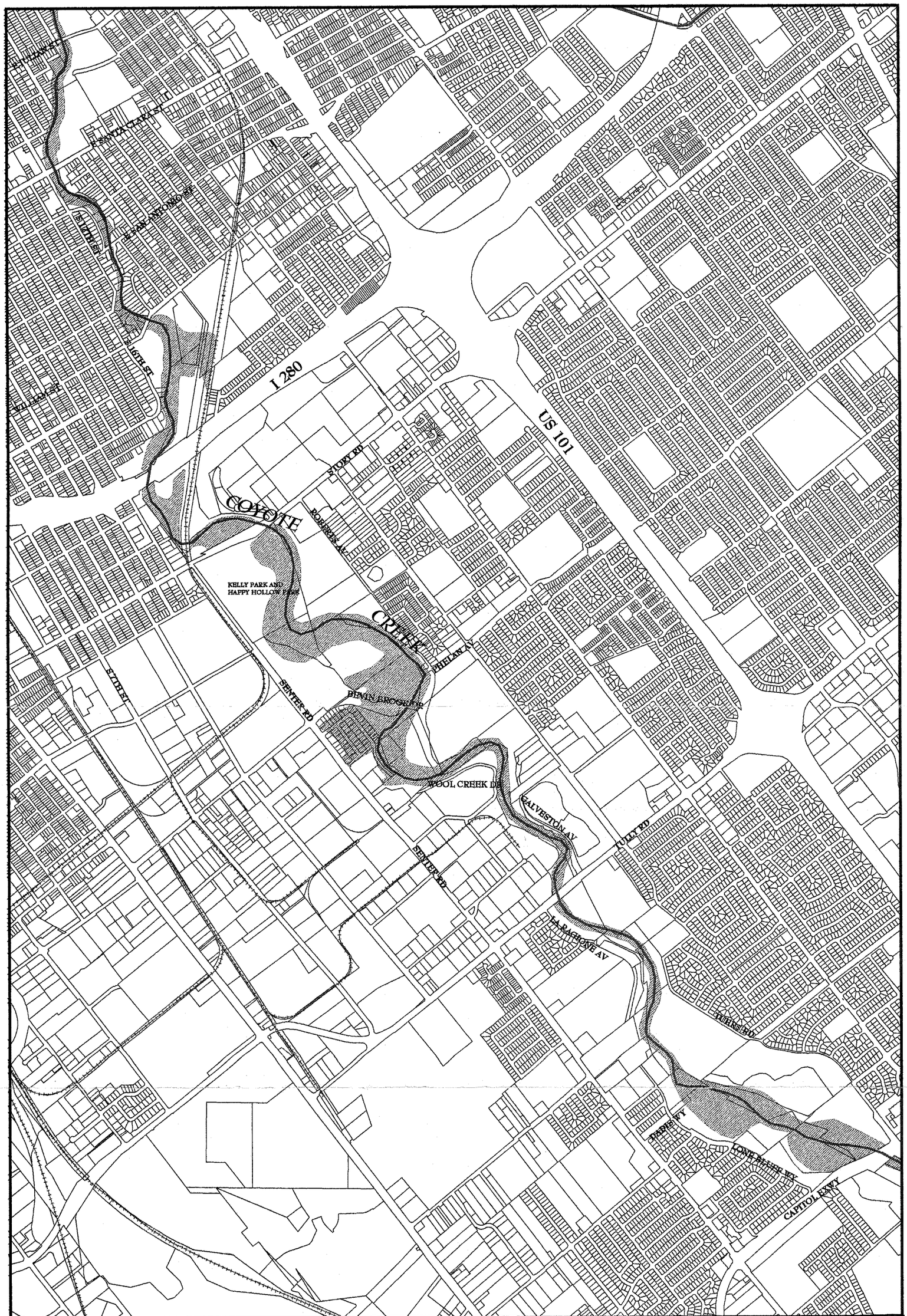


N

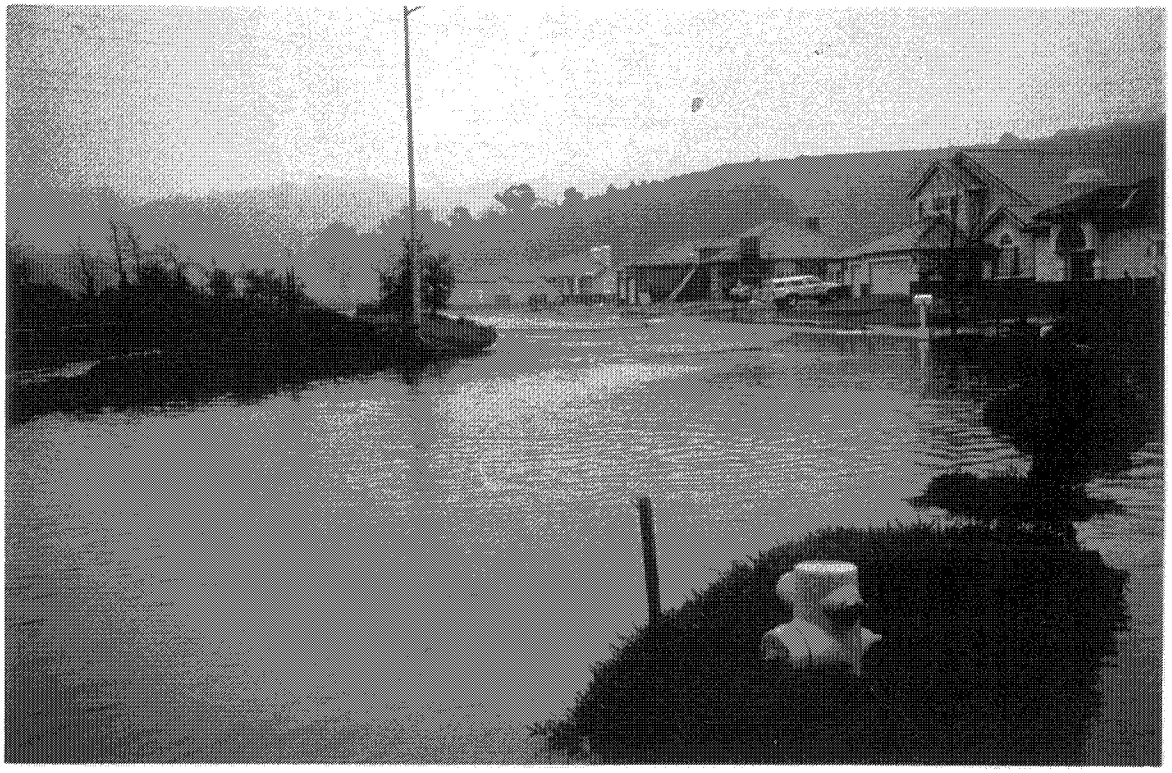
January 27, 1997

Flooded Area

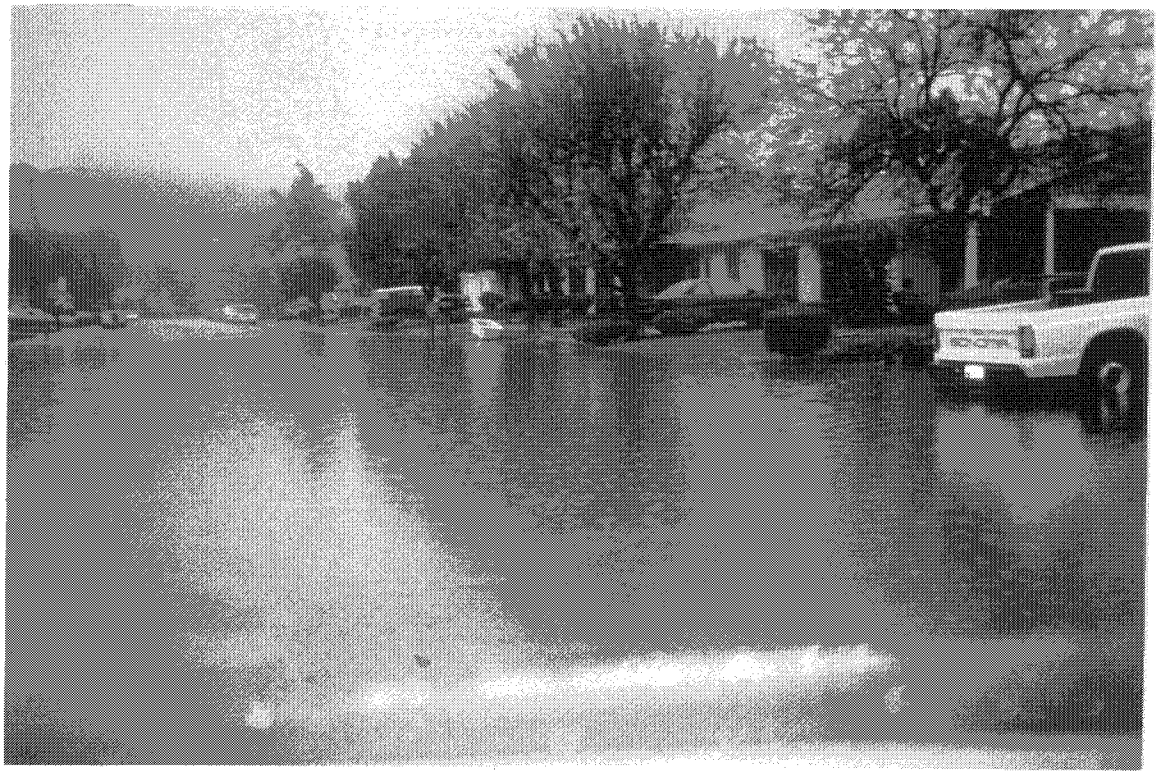
Not To Scale

JANUARY 1 - JANUARY 27, 1997 FLOODING PHOTOGRAPHS

SOUTH ZONE



Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek on Llagas Creek Drive in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-12)



Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek on Shadowbrook Way in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-21)

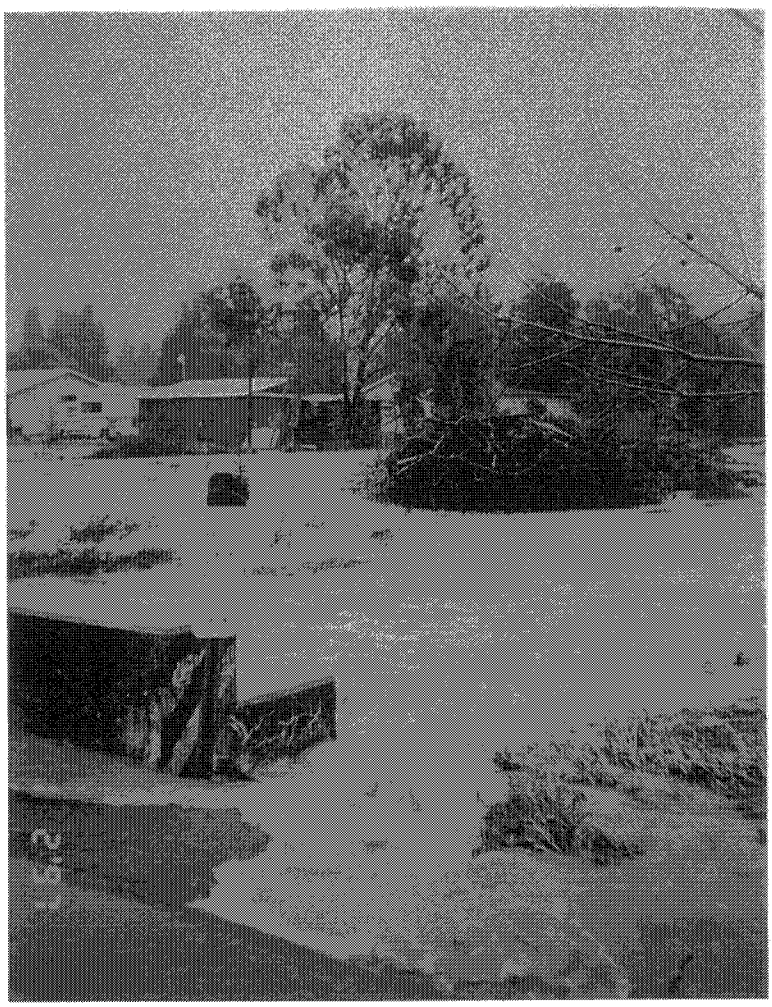
Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek on West Main St. in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-26)

Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek at Countryside Daycare on West Main St. in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-28)

Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek on La Via Azul St. at La Jolla Dr. in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-32)

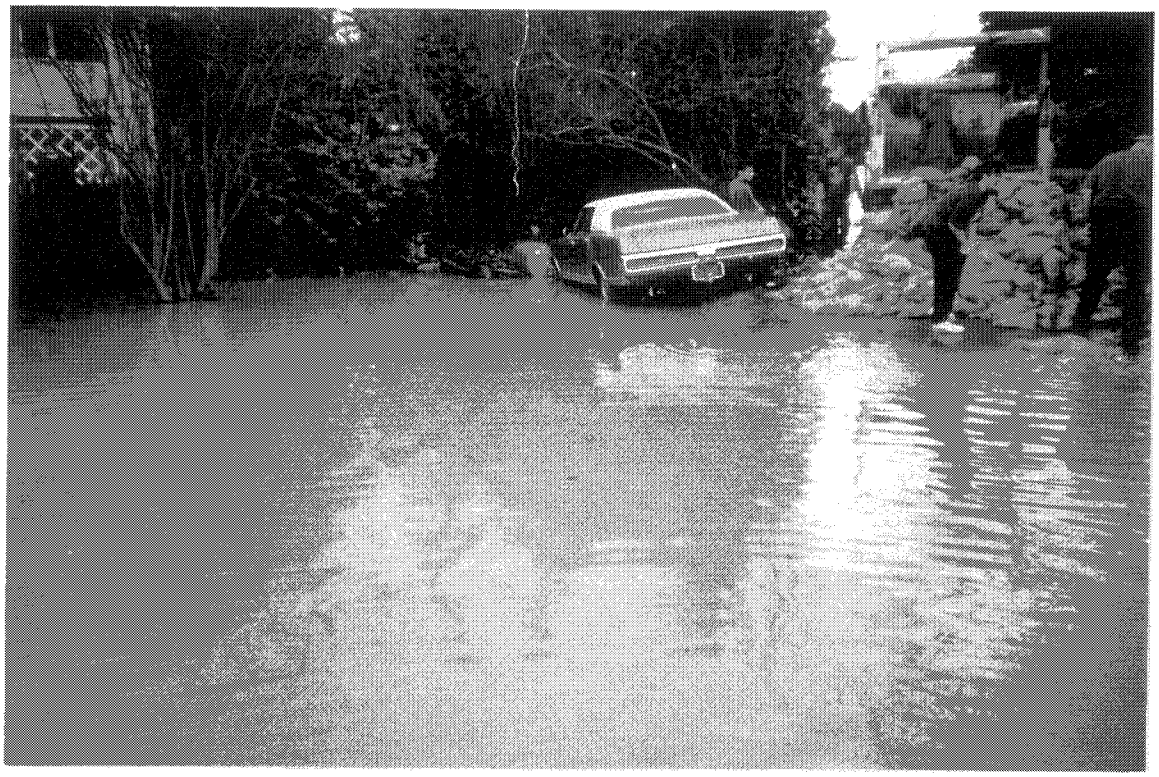
Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek at Maple Leaf RV Park in Morgan Hill
1-1-97 (S5079-49)

Flooding from West Little Llagas Creek at Watsonville Rd. and Monterey Rd. in Morgan Hill
1-2-97 (S5075-16)



Overbanking from Llagas Creek in Morgan Hill
1-2-97 (S5075-15)

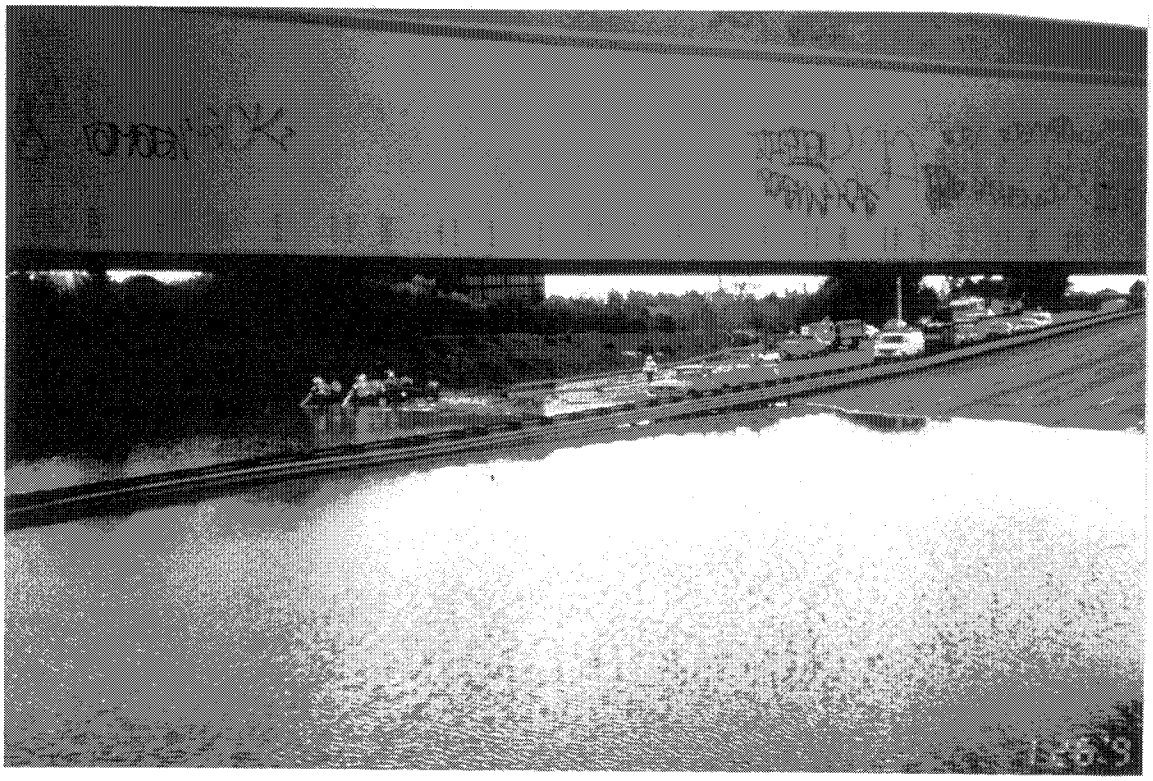
EAST ZONE



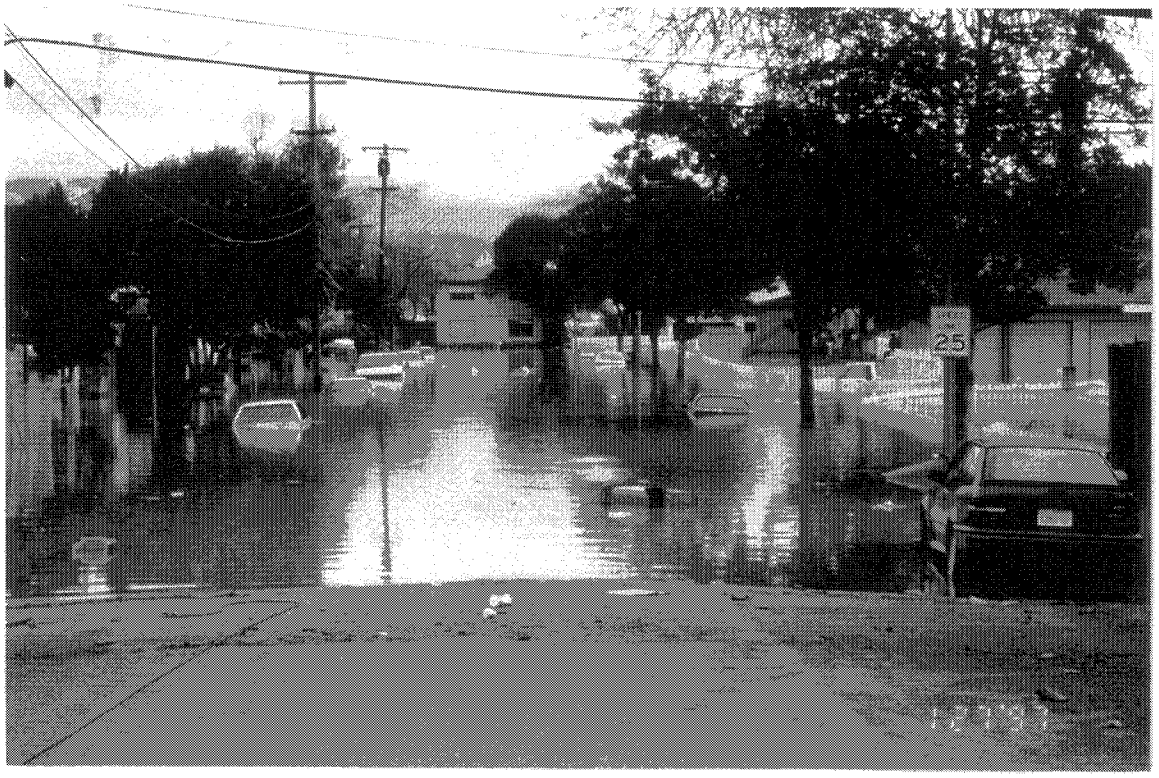
Coyote Creek flooding and sandbagging operation at William St. in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5089-54)

Flooding from Coyote Creek at a residence on William St. in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5089-59)

Coyote Creek flooding at Watson Park. in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5089-61)

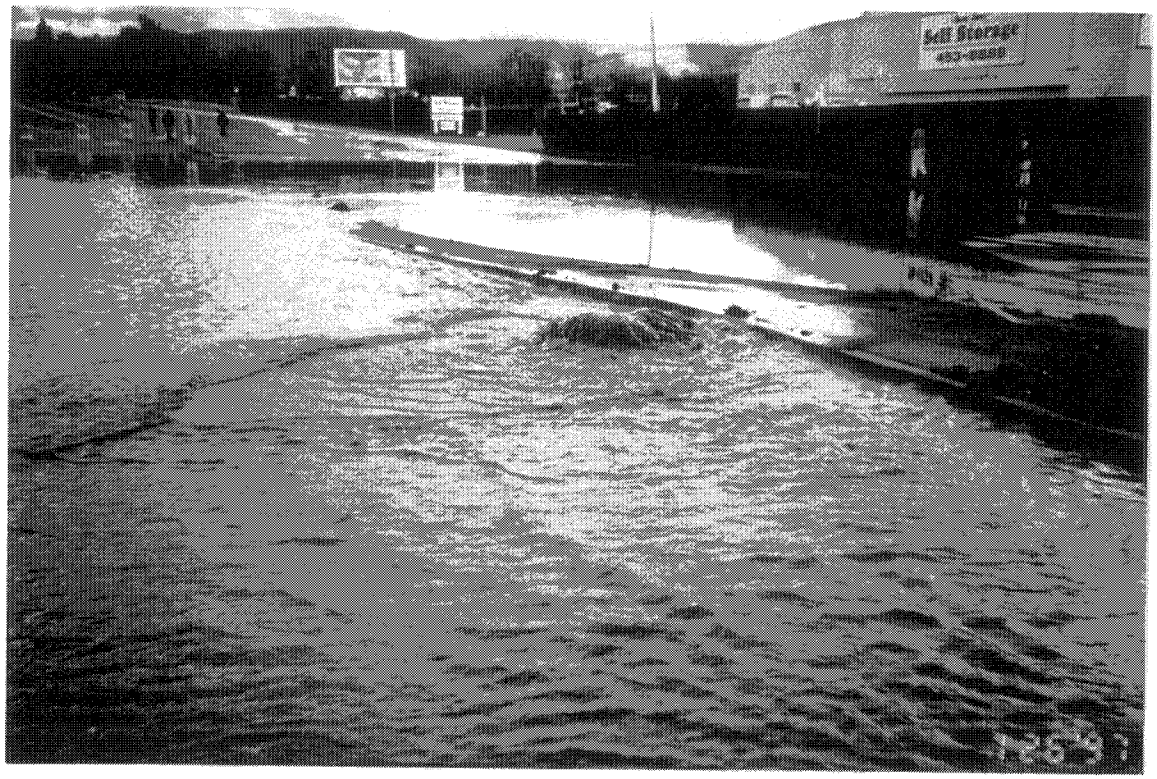


Flooding from Coyote Creek at Highway 101 in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5089-69)



Coyote Creek flooding at Nordale Ave. in San Jose
1-27-97 (S5089-72)

Flooding from Coyote Creek at Nordale Ave. in San Jose
1-27-97 (S5089-74)



Coyote Creek flooding at Berryessa Rd. in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5089-85)

Flooding from Coyote Creek downstream of East William St. in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5085-8)

Coyote Creek in San Jose - Water District crew building sandbag levee at railroad crossing to protect mobile homes
1-26-97 (S5074-18)

Coyote Creek in San Jose - finished sandbag levee at railroad crossing in San Jose
1-26-97 (S5074-19)

APPENDIX C

MEDIA ADVISORIES

Public Information Officer
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Teddy Morse
Phone: 408/265-2607, Ext. 2279
Pager: 408/237-7541 (note new pager number)
Fax: 408/267-9843

Dec. 27, 1996

Santa Clara Valley Water District on Alert As Weekend Storm Approaches

Santa Clara Valley Water District Employees will be monitoring the predicted storm through the weekend and will be available if an emergency occurs.

The water district is providing the community with flood protection through the weekend by distribution of free sandbags at various locations throughout the county. The community can also contact County Communications in case of a flood emergency during the weekend.

Emergency Numbers

For sandbag locations call toll free:
1-888-Hey Noah (1-888-439-6624)

In case of a flooding emergency call:
County Communications 408/299-2711

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Public Information Officer
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 2, 1997

Contact: Teddy Morse
Phone: 408-265-2607, ext. 2279
Pager: 408-237-7541

Mike Di Marco
408-265-2607, ext. 2423
408-488-3963

STATUS OF FLOODING IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

As of noon today the problem areas remain the southern portion of Santa Clara County, with flooding reported on New Year's Day in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Water district staff opened the emergency operations center today to assist the south county cities, if needed.

District officials are monitoring storm activity countywide with concern not only for the south county area, but also the areas that receive water from the Guadalupe and Coyote watersheds. This includes the downtown area of San Jose.

The district's sandbag and flood information hotline remains a way for the public to find out not only where to get sandbags, but also provides them a telephone number to contact district staff directly if they have questions. That toll-free number is 1-888-Hey Noah (436-6624).

Public Information Officer
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 3, 1997

Contact: Teddy Morse
Phone: 408-265-2607, ext. 2279
Pager: 408-237-7541

Mike Di Marco
408-265-2607, ext. 2423
408-488-3963

STATUS OF FLOODING IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy closed their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) Thursday evening. The water district is now on monitoring status versus full operation of the district's EOC. Lexington is spilling, but no downstream flooding has been reported. All creeks are receding. Anderson may spill over the weekend, however, with creeks receding no flooding problem is expected. The district will remain in a monitoring mode until further notice.

The district's sandbag and flood information hotline remains a way for the public to find out not only where to get sandbags, but also provides them a telephone number to contact district staff directly if they have questions. That toll-free number is 1-888-Hey Noah (436-6624).

-30-

NEWS RELEASE

January 7, 1997

Contact: Teddy Morse
Phone: 408/265-2607, ext. 2279

Mike DiMarco
408/265-2607, ext. 2423

Santa Clara County Water Quality Issues Related to Recent Storms Discussed at Jan. 7, District Board Meeting

At its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 7, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors asked district staff for an update on any impacts to drinking water quality in the county as a result of the recent storms. Half of Santa Clara County's water comes from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and citizens may be seeing and reading reports of water contamination as flood waters inundate the delta area.

Water district water quality experts reported to the board that the district has several different water sources that can be used to maintain a high quality drinking water supply for the county. Currently the district is treating water from the federal San Felipe Project. Though this water originated in the delta, it was stored in San Luis Reservoir in Merced County, well south of the delta, before the January storms.

The district's sophisticated testing and monitoring of water quality at its three treatment plants gives the district the assurance that high-quality water is being distributed from the plants to the water retail companies (both municipal and private

-more-

companies) in the county.

In addition the district operates a groundwater recharge system providing an adequate, safe groundwater supply to municipal and private water companies throughout the county. The South County communities of Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy are dependent on groundwater for their full supply. The majority of privately-owned wells in the county are in the southern portion of the county. Morgan Hill and San Martin took the brunt of the January storm and in some cases, private wells were contaminated. Private well owners are encouraged to contact Mr. Jodi Keahey, Santa Clara County Environmental Health Department, 408/299-6060 if they experienced flooding in their area.

If citizens have questions about their particular water supply they can contact their water company. A list of water companies and their phone numbers is attached for your convenience.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency that serves the wholesale water supply and flood protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

California Water Service Company (415) 917-0152
949 B Street, Los Altos 94024

Cupertino Municipal Water Utility (408) 777-3354
10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino 95014

City of Gilroy (408) 848-0450
7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy 95020

Great Oaks Water Company (408) 227-9540
23 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose 95119

City of Milpitas (408) 942-3231
455 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas 95035

City of Morgan Hill (408) 776-7337
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill 95037

City of Mountain View (415) 903-6216
Public Service Department
231 N. Whisman Road, Mountain View 94043

San Jose Municipal Water System (408) 277-4036
3025 Tuers Road, San Jose 95121

San Jose Water Company (408) 279-7884
374 Santa Clara Street, San Jose 95196

Santa Clara Valley Water District (408) 265-2600
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose 95118

City of Santa Clara (408) 984-3183
Water and Sewer Utilities
1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara 95050

City of Sunnyvale (800) 378-8587

Printed on recycled paper

Public Affairs
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Public Affairs Representative
Mike Di Marco
Office: (408) 265-2607 ext. 2423
Pager: (408) 488-3963
Fax: (408) 267-9843

County Parks Representative
Tamara Clark-Shear
(408) 358-3741 ext. 131

Date: Jan. 23, 1997

Anderson Reservoir 'waterfall' spilling above Morgan Hill

Despite heavy rain throughout the region, Santa Clara Valley was spared Wednesday from the kind of flooding that inundated parts of the valley earlier this month.

In the storm's wake, valley residents are being treated to an awesome display of Mother Nature's grandeur with the spilling of water from seven of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's 10 reservoirs.

The most spectacular show is east of Morgan Hill where torrents of water are cascading over rock outcroppings of the Diablo Range below Anderson Reservoir.

Anderson Reservoir, which holds 89,073 acre-feet of water -- more than the combined capacities of the water district's nine other reservoirs -- began spilling around 3 a.m. today. In addition, six other reservoirs in the valley -- Almaden, Coyote, Guadalupe, Lexington, Stevens Creek and Uvas -- are spilling. Calero, Chesbro and Vasona reservoirs remain below spill stage.

In anticipation of large crowds that traditionally visit Anderson Lake County Park to admire the reservoir's massive waterfall, the water district is assisting Santa Clara County park rangers with security. The district has been working with the Santa Clara County Parks Department and San Jose Conservation Corps to sandbag slippery sections of trails, fence off dangerous areas and complete other work to provide a safe,

MORE

satisfying experience for park visitors.

Wednesday's rainfall caused minor flooding in Morgan Hill along Little Llagas Creek. In addition, the city experienced minor to moderate flooding on some of its streets. Although homes, businesses and streets along the Guadalupe River through downtown San Jose experienced significant flooding during storms in January and March 1995, the river has been able to contain flows this rainy season. However, with Almaden, Lexington and Guadalupe reservoirs spilling, the water district is keeping a close vigil on the river.

In addition, should revised forecasts indicate a probability of heavy rainfall, maintenance crews, hydrologists and other water district employees will be available to monitor conditions and respond to emergencies.

Anyone concerned about potential flooding is encouraged to pick up free sandbags from the water district, which are available at seven sites throughout Santa Clara County. To find the sandbag distribution site nearest you, call 1-888-HEY NOAH (1-888-439-6624).

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency serving the wholesale water supply and flood-protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

Public Affairs Director
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Public Affairs Representative
Mike Di Marco
Office: (408) 265-2607 ext. 2423
Pager: (408) 488-3963
Fax: (408) 267-9843

Date: Jan. 25, 1997, 2:30 p.m.

No flooding reported from latest storm

A storm that swept through the region Friday night into this morning moved considerably faster than expected, causing no reports of significant flooding along more than 700 miles of streams in Santa Clara County.

As of 8:30 a.m. today, the National Weather Service is predicting very little rain through Saturday and into Sunday. But the Santa Clara Valley Water District will continue to actively monitor weather conditions, stream flows and reservoirs through the weekend for several reasons -- the ground in the watersheds is largely saturated and unable to hold more water; seven of the district's 10 reservoirs are spilling and two are rapidly filling; runoff from higher elevations is still making its way into streams and reservoirs in the valley; and any more rain could potentially push streams to the flood stage.

Cognizant of those conditions, created by a series of storms over the past three weeks, the water district assumed a "Level I" emergency response at 5:20 p.m Friday resulting in partial activation of the district's Emergency Operations Center. The Level I response is still in effect.

While there have been no reports of flooding, the district has received numerous telephone calls over the past 36 hours from residents in need of sandbags. All seven sites in the county are stocked with filled sandbags, which are available at no cost to anyone who needs them. To find sandbag distribution sites, residents and business owners can call the district's toll-free number, 1-888-HEY NOAH (1-888-439-6624).

The water district reminds residents to keep a close eye on streams near them and to be prepared to leave the area should water rise above the banks.

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency serving the wholesale water supply and flood-protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

Public Affairs Director
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Public Affairs Officer
Teddy Morse
Office: (408) 265-2607 ext. 2279
Pager: (408) 237-7541
Fax: (408) 267-9843

Public Affairs Representative
Mike Di Marco
(408) 265-2607 ext. 2423
(408) 488-3963

Date: Jan. 26, 1997, 5:30 p.m.

Flood watch in effect for Coyote Creek system

Rain Saturday night and Sunday morning, combined with saturated soil conditions and spilling reservoirs, resulted Sunday in flooding along Coyote Creek between Anderson Reservoir in Morgan Hill and north San Jose.

More flooding may occur between midnight and noon Monday when flows in Coyote Creek are expected to peak. However, the creek is not expected to crest above flood stage.

Below Anderson Dam, which began spilling Jan. 23, Santa Clara County park rangers have closed two day-use areas along Cochrane Road east of U.S. 101 to protect public safety. In addition, pedestrian access to Anderson Lake County Park has been suspended. Motorists are still being allowed to drive to Anderson Reservoir, but are not allowed to stop or park. Vehicle access may be restricted in the near future if flooding continues.

Early Sunday, county Department of Corrections officials partially evacuated the William F. James/Harold Holden boys ranches below Anderson Reservoir when water from Coyote Creek began entering the complex.

No other residents have been forcefully evacuated along the 42-mile-long Coyote Creek. And unlike 1983, when Coyote Creek broke from its channel near the San Jose-Milpitas border and buried the town of Alviso under water, no problems have been reported in the same area. The water district has since completed work to reinforce levees and to widen the channel along the once-vulnerable spot.

From Morgan Hill south, Santa Clara Valley Water District crews have found no problems along Coyote Creek through Coyote Valley. Riverside Golf

MORE

Course is closed and park rangers cut a small hole in a levee of Parkway Lakes late Sunday to reduce pressure on the popular fishing spot's levee system. As a precaution, Hellyer County Park in South San Jose has also been closed.

Water district crews worked side-by-side with residents of South Bay Mobile Home Park on Old Oakland Road to build a sandbag levee after a section of Coyote Creek crept into the park before dawn. Although no coaches were flooded, water is three feet deep along some sections of roadway in the park.

The water district is sending pumps to the park to remove standing water.

Flooding closed U.S. 101 north of Interstate 280 early Sunday and the road is not expected to open tonight. In an attempt to reopen the highway in time for the Monday morning commute, the water district is sending pumps to Caltrans crews to move water from the freeway.

Other trouble spots include:

* San Jose police evacuated some residents of William Street, between 15th and 16th streets, at the request of those in the neighborhood;

* Portions of Berryessa Road are under water;

* Watson Park and Williams Park in San Jose are flooded, which is intentional to protect surrounding areas from floodwater.

The water district, which declared a Level I emergency on Friday, has moved into a Level II response, which means its Emergency Operation Center is not only staffed around the clock, but poised to respond to other agencies' requests for assistance.

In addition, the water district is suspending its normal field operations as of 11 p.m. tonight so that crews will be rested for emergency responses on Monday should conditions worsen. District personnel, as well as crews from the San Jose Conservation Corps, will be working tonight to fill and distribute sandbags to sites on William Street and Berryessa Road for residents worried about continued flooding.

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency serving the wholesale water supply and flood-protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

Public Affairs Director
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Public Affairs Representative
Mike Di Marco
(408) 265-2607 ext. 2423
(408) 488-3963
Fax: (408) 267-9843

Public Affairs Manager
Teddy Morse
(408) 265-2607 ext. 2279
(408) 237-7541

Date: Jan. 27, 1997, 12:30 p.m.

Worst of Coyote Creek flooding appears over

A surge of water from peak flows spilling over Anderson Dam passed through the Coyote Creek system early this morning, causing moderate flooding to portions of San Jose.

As of 10 a.m. today, flows in Coyote Creek remain steady and, in some cases, are receding, greatly reducing the chance that more flooding will occur. The Santa Clara Valley Water District, however, continues to fully staff its emergency operations center and is actively monitoring stream flows, reservoirs and meteorological conditions.

Some 200 people were evacuated during the night from homes in the Rock Springs neighborhood near Kelly Park. In addition, water from Coyote Creek -- which flows through the park -- has closed the Japanese Friendship Garden and Happy Hollow Zoo, where animals were evacuated on Sunday.

There were also some homes affected by flooding along Arroyo Way, between San Carlos and Santa Clara streets, when water topped the bank.

South Bay Mobile Home Park, near Old Oakland Road and Commercial Street, did not experience any flooding Sunday night after residents, water district personnel and San Jose Conservation Corps members built a levee around a bend in Coyote Creek using an estimated 3,000 sandbags. In addition,

MORE

the water district used two pumps to remove 3- to 4-foot-deep water from the park so residents could retrieve their vehicles.

On Sunday, 9,000 sandbags were delivered to William Street, 4,500 to Berryessa Road and 2,000 bags to the city of San Jose's South City yard. Overnight, Conservation Corps crews reported to the water district's main warehouse to fill more sandbags.

No other residents have been evacuated along the 42-mile-long Coyote Creek. And unlike 1983, when Coyote Creek broke from its channel near the San Jose-Milpitas border and inundated the town of Alviso with water, no problems have been reported in the same area. Water levels in Coyote Creek at Montague Expressway peaked earlier this morning well below flood stage.

With more rain possible tonight and/or Tuesday, the water district will continue to monitor conditions. Residents worried that flooding will return can call the district's toll free number, 1-888-HEY NOAH (1-888-439-6624) to find the sandbag distribution site nearest them.

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency serving the wholesale water supply and flood-protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

Public Affairs Director
Teddy Morse

Santa Clara Valley Water District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Public Affairs Representative
Mike Di Marco
Office: (408) 265-2607 ext. 2423
Pager: (408) 488-3963
Fax: (408) 267-9843

Date: Jan. 30, 1997

Anderson Lake Park closed for repairs below dam

Unprecedented amounts of water spilling from Anderson Reservoir have partially eroded one side of an earthen ravine that carries water into Coyote Creek, necessitating closure of Anderson Lake County Park to make repairs.

The erosion does not threaten homes or county juvenile probation ranches below the dam but, if left untreated, could eventually divert water away from the creek and endanger public and private property.

In addition, there is no threat to the integrity of the 47-year-old dam, which is capable of storing 89,073 acre-feet of water -- more than the combined total storage capacities of Santa Clara County's other nine reservoirs.

Beginning today, Santa Clara Valley Water District crews are building a temporary road along a hiking trail into the site so that 3- to 5-ton boulders can be trucked in to reinforce the bank, which is eroding at two sites. District crews will dig up Coyote brush plants, which are listed as threatened species, for replanting when work is completed. In addition, the district is taking cuttings of some flowering currants to replant the site when the project wraps up.

It is expected to take seven to 10 days to finish the work.

The work, which is being conducted in cooperation with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, will close Anderson Lake County Park to protect the public from equipment used to repair erosion.

Santa Clara Valley Water District is the water resource management agency serving the wholesale water supply and flood-protection needs of Santa Clara County's 1.6 million residents.

APPENDIX D

POST FLOOD MEETINGS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

March 28, 1997

Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95118-3686
TELEPHONE (408) 265-2600
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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Dear Resident:

Subject: Llagas Creek February 6, 1997, Public Meeting

Thank you for attending the public meeting held on February 6, 1997. This meeting was held to help us better understand your concerns and frustrations, particularly after the recent January flooding. As a result of those discussions, we believe we are better prepared to be more responsive to your needs in the future.

As we discussed at the meeting, while there is a critical need to protect a large number of residents in the south Santa Clara County area from flooding, funding from the state and federal government for that purpose has been dwindling. We are pleased to learn that many of you have written to your legislative representatives to voice your concerns about providing adequate funds for flood protection. Hopefully, through our collective efforts, a larger and more reliable source of funding may be created for the urgently-needed flood control program in the south Santa Clara County area.

Enclosed are our responses to the questions asked at the February 6, 1997, meeting regarding the 1997 flooding and the proposed Llagas Creek flood control project. The responses were jointly prepared by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) and the City of Morgan Hill.

Several maintenance-related issues and concerns were raised at the public meeting. As promised, we will schedule a maintenance follow-up meeting for anyone interested to address these issues and concerns. We tentatively plan to have this meeting on April 10 in the City of Morgan Hill Council Chambers and will notify you by mail once the time, date, and place are confirmed.

Finally, please accept my apologies for not getting this information to you sooner. I wanted to coordinate preparation of these responses with the City of Morgan Hill as well as several District departments to ensure that responses to your questions were as complete and accurate as possible. Some of the responses required more research and took longer than anticipated

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with District staff on February 6. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Timmy Yung at (408) 265-2600, extension 2672, or me at extension 2328.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

David J. Chesterman
Project Development Manager

Enclosure

cc/enc: City of Morgan Hill Council Members
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
City of Morgan Hill (Mayor, Director of Public Works, and City Engineer)
South Zone Flood Control Advisory Committee Members
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (Mr. Charles Davis, Mr. Bill Ward, Mr. Jim Kocssi, Mr. Bob Sneickus, and Mr. Jeff Rodriguez)
Congresswoman Zoe Lofrgren, State Senator Bruce McPherson, and Assemblyman Peter Frusetta

Board of Directors (7), S. Williams, K. Whitlock, G. Lau, J. Wang, R. Talley, I. Shintani, J. Ortiz, M. Magill, S. Ruby, K. McKenzie, M. Stone, R. Callender, K. Moss, S. Tippets, K. Whitman, T. Morse, M. DiMarco, S. Ruby, G. Halsey, V. Germany, T. Yung

TY:lcg:CT0326c

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
FROM PUBLIC MEETING ON LLAGAS CREEK FLOODING
February 6, 1997

1. **The City of Morgan Hill (City) is not satisfied with the action to date. We want to put pressure on the federal government, state government, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) to get resolutions to our problems as soon as possible.**

   The District and the City will continue our efforts to obtain/restore more state and federal flood control funding for the south Santa Clara County. In addition, we encourage you to support Assemblyman's AB97 and ABX which asked the Legislature to restore funding for the flood subventions program. Funding for this program will allow the District and City to work together to complete this urgently-needed project. District staff is also currently investigating interim fixes which will relieve some of the flooding in this area.

2. **The people of Morgan Hill are upset that this public hearing was not televised. The Vice Mayor of Morgan Hill suggested that $4 million of the RV Park budget be agendized at the next City Council Meeting to be used for land purchase and digging a ditch.**

   It was the District's intentions to keep the meeting atmosphere informal and open and to make people feel comfortable to make comments. See Question No. 3 for the $4 million loan to the District.

3. **If the City loans the District $4 million (with low interest), will the District finish the diversion channel on West Little Llagas Creek?**

   Certainly funding is a big part of what is slowing down completion of the PL566 project. The District has identified an interim project on the PL566 alignment which could be implemented without adverse downstream impacts. The Morgan Hill loan could be used to finance the right of way acquisition and construction. However, payback of the loan would be dependent upon the State Subventions Program which is uncertain. Also the South Flood Control Zone does not have capability to pay interest on any loans.

4. **A business owner, east of Highway 101, has lived in his home on San Pedro Avenue for 48 years. He never had a drop of water in his basement in prior years. Now his basement has flooded for the second time this year. The District looked at the basement and drained the ponds adjacent to the property. The basement then dried up, but when it rains again and the ponds fill up, the basement floods again. If the District would keep the ponds drained, there would not be a problem with the basement flooding. The business owner has written two letters to the District but has not received a response yet.**

   Shallow groundwater less than 14 feet below ground surface has been occurring throughout the south Santa Clara County for the last 2 years. Generally, it is probable that these high groundwater levels are related to high rainfall. They may be temporary perched groundwater on clay-rich zones that hold the groundwater before it can migrate downgradient.

   Concerns have been raised regarding the operation of the San Pedro ponds and whether the percolation operation is contributing to this high groundwater problem in the immediate vicinity of the ponds. The District has initiated an investigation of these conditions both at San Pedro ponds and the Church Avenue ponds.

   At the San Pedro ponds, measurements of water levels in an agricultural well on Mr. Pedrizetti's land was at 25.39 feet below the top of the concrete pump deck on January 30, 1997. The well on District property at the corner of Hill and San Pedro had a water level of 34.9 feet below the

top of the concrete pump deck. The level of water in the last pond (No. 7) was at 15.34 feet on the same date. This investigation will continue to measure water levels in wells, will install some shallow monitoring wells, both on and off District property, and will observe the changes in water levels with changes in pond operations. This program will continue throughout the summer and during the next rainy season.

At this time, it is necessary to operate the ponds at as close to capacity as possible to recharge as much water as possible. The District has a responsibility to recharge whenever possible to maintain the groundwater availability to wells in the south Santa Clara County area. If this operation is causing nuisance conditions, then the District will design an operational plan to control the nuisance conditions such as wet basements.

We have no knowledge of any letters written to the District on this issue. Please contact Mr. Anthony Bennetti at (408) 265-2607, extension 2205, regarding any correspondence to the District.

5. **A San Martin resident is concerned about Morgan Hill water running down to San Martin. Every year the water rises higher and higher. The detention ponds near East Middle and San Martin Avenues are not doing the job.**

The pond location is in the county area; it is likely that the pond belongs to the county. Once the PL566 project is completed by the District, the drainage situation in this area will be improved. Please also see Answer No. 8.

6. **Is there still something in the works for Corralitos Creek? Can the creek be deepened and moved so it can hold the water from all the holding ponds?**

There is no plan for modifications to Corralitos Creek. In the mid-1980s, the District had worked with several property owners on an interim excavation and realignment plan, but it required right of way dedication and did not get 100 percent cooperation.

7. **San Martin residents also have Corralitos Creek water running through their properties. There has been a proposed project by the Board of Directors (Board) in the works for many years and nothing has been done. One reason is that about 20 percent of the people in this area will not give up their easements, so the Corralitos Creek project is essentially dead because now there are no funds.**

See Comment No. 6.

8. **Continued development of housing projects on the east side of the foothills is contributing to all the runoff to Corralitos Creek.**

The City development policy requires that new developments control their discharges to the preimprovement level. Most of the developers install detention ponds in the new developments to comply with the regulation. The ponds are intended to address the impacts of the development; they do not necessarily solve any other flood problems. Many other streams in the south Santa Clara County have never been modified and are severely inadequate. See Answer No. 5.

9. **What can we, as a community, do to assist the District in obtaining more power to enforce regulations and ordinances?**

The District is empowered through State Legislature as described by the District Act. The District Act does not give the District police-type enforcement powers. Enforcement of District ordinances is through civil action. Any change to the District Act must come through state legislation.

10. **What can the community do to help promote the District's effort to procure some funding from the federal government?**

We encourage you to write and to talk to your political representatives at the state and federal level to voice your concerns and to urge them for their support for funding in the flood control program. Attached for your use are a sample letter of support and names of political representatives from the state and federal governments in your area.

11. **There is a lot of damage in the Llagas Avenue neighborhood.**

Comment noted.

12 **A resident who has lived in San Martin for 24 years is still pumping water from under his house. He said that it has never flooded this bad. I have not seen any plans to work on Corralitos Creek. Is the District planning to do something about it?**

See Answer No. 6.

13. **The box culvert on Llagas Creek at Llagas Road is too small. New development is supposed to capture a 25-year flood, and excess water was supposed to run off on to the road. The house next to the road is lower than the road so now the excess water is coming into the house. Will the road be raised or will a holding tank be built? Are there any plans to build a big holding pond between Llagas Road and downtown Morgan Hill?**

One of the functions of the box culvert is to control the flow to prevent flooding of downstream. New developments are required only to capture the added discharge generated by the new improvement. They are not responsible for drainage mitigation on the surrounding area beyond their contribution. The City has applied for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and joint funding with the District to construct a holding pond/park in the Llagas/Hale area in an effort to improve the drainage situation.

14. **Why is Llagas Creek, north of Watsonville Road, the same size as it has been for the last 70 years, and yet, Morgan Hill allows this area to be built up without official upgrades to the creek?**

Due to the state and federal deficit, funding for the flood control program in the south Santa Clara County has been reduced since 1990. So far we have completed about 60 percent of the Llagas Creek Watershed project starting at the downstream channel at Parjoro River. There are still 11 miles of channel yet to be built including the Morgan Hill area. See Answer No. 8 for the City's land development policy.

15. **Twenty years ago, during big storms, the creeks flowed very fast. Now sandbags and growth in the creeks are slowing the flow. The flow in the whole valley is slowly backing up and the runoff is not getting to the south of Gilroy. What can be done to get some dozers down to the creek (which is owned by the District) to clean out the debris, bushes, trees, etc. . . ?**

This question describes obstructions to flow as well as the method to remove those obstructions by using bulldozers. Permits to do such work would be required from the Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

16. **Can a resident bring his/her own dozer down to the creek and clean it up?**

A resident wanting to do this same type of work would need permits from the same agencies named in Question No. 15 and from the District.

17. **Three rental properties near Monterey Highway (by Day Road) have 4 feet of water in them. Approximately 10 to 11 years ago, this area was leveled. The owner has an old map that shows where the water used to run. Someone is letting people take these drains out. Now the water goes to the Monterey Highway. Runoffs from Masten Avenue, and everything west of San Martin, goes to a 4-foot by 6-foot ditch that cannot carry excessive water.**

The District was not responsible for the flooding. A citizen has the right to consult with a legal advisor of his or her choice on this matter and, if it seems appropriate, file a claim against the entity (if any) that he or she and or their advisor may believe to be responsible.

18. **Who is responsible for the flooding? Is it the District or the City? Who can we talk to?**

Flooding is a natural occurrence when creeks do not have adequate capacity to convey runoff. Flooding can occur in both undeveloped and developed areas. It can occur in areas where homes are built in existing floodplains and in areas where development has, over time, altered the rate and direction of runoff.

The City, through it's elected officials, has responsibility for land use decisions for the community's flood hazard ordinance and for local drainage. The District advises on flooding issues relative to new development, prepares and updates floodplain mapping, and constructs and maintains major flood protection facilities.

You are welcome to speak to either the City or the District regarding flooding issues. Representatives will direct your specific questions as appropriate.

19. **North of Watsonville Road, a 3-year old house has a courtyard under 1 to 2 feet of water. Every winter the courtyard is covered with 1 to 2 feet of water. The water is coming from the creek, back through the storm drain, and on to the courtyard. The level of the road is several feet below the top of the creek. I was told it was planned that way. That's a plan???**

West Little Llagas Creek is under capacity. For this reason, any storm with sizeable magnitude (i.e., 25 years, 24 hours) would cause drainage surcharge into the streets. The street would become temporarily flooded due to water backup. The completion of the PL566 project by the District will solve most of the problems except for the very severe storm events.

20. **How can the City allow more development when the situation we have (flooding) is so critical?**

Please see Answer No. 8.

21. **A resident on Lopez Court in San Martin has a problem with the drain field from the septic tank. The water level is so high it runs back into the septic tank. His well water is running over. Stagnant water is not running off his property and this will create a mosquito problem in the near future if nothing is done about it.**

How the leachfields function are the owners responsibility. District suggests that, because of the potential health problems, owners should seek technical input from experts in septic systems.

22. **A resident in the Maple Leaf RV Park has noticed sewage spilling over from the manholes. This situation is a health hazard and should be addressed.**

The owner of Maple Leaf RV Park is in violation of the park conditions of approval and is allowing the sewer system to flood. The City is seeking remedy through legal action.

23. **One of the biggest problems are trees in the stream. People dump stuff in the creek and it ends up forming dams. This has happened in a number of different places. There are trees directly under Highway 152 that will eventually become a good size. The trees will hold up a lot of water for a long period of times, but when the trees go down, there will be another log in the water. This problem needs to be taken care of.**

This comment to remove trees from the bottom of creeks before they become large is duly noted. Work will be scheduled for later this year if funding is available.

24. **This resident had water running over his entire property this year. The amount of development upstream creates downwash at the end of Little Llagas Creek. People are taking matters into their own hands by berming their properties and that creates problems in itself. We cannot really blame these people because they are only trying to protect their property and investment. This excessive water is diminishing the value of their properties. The big problem is diversion. If the project was completed, the water could then be diverted to a different location. This resident watched the water on his property rise 4 to 5 inches in the course of 20 minutes.**

The comment is noted and is correct in stating that the berming of properties may create problems in itself. Such berming may direct flows on to other properties. Protection of your home by such measures is a reasonable approach; however, the construction of levees around major land holdings can cause significant harm to others which could result in civil action from the injured party. As discussed, the District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are proceeding toward the construction of a diversion channel to direct flood flows away from the current alignment of East Little Llagas Creek.

25. **Why does it take the District 2 years to get the necessary permits to remove silt in the channel and get the channel back to the original specifications?**

The information that regulatory agencies need to evaluate permit applications includes a description of the proposed activities, an assessment of the biotic resources, impacts on those resources, and a compensatory mitigation plan. Gathering that information and the availability of staff to do that work is what contributes to the time it takes to gain approvals. The District's strategy is to prepare a program level Environmental Impact Report on sediment removal and erosion control activities and a 10-year Corps permit application to conduct those activities. When granted, the District will be to a great extent self-regulating and self-reporting. Two-year processes will then not be an issue.

26. **Why has the District chosen Gilroy and Morgan Hill to improve and not San Martin? Why not prioritize and complete one creek before going to another creek?**

Gilroy and Morgan Hill were included in the PL566 project because they were urban centers with the potential for the most significant flood damage.

27. **In San Martin, south of New Avenue, water drains through a property and dumps into the New Creek. Sediment in the creek has grown to 6 to 8 feet deep in certain areas. When the creek cannot handle the flow, the runoff does not go where it is supposed to go, so it then goes into this property. Who is responsible for the maintenance, and what steps need to be taken in order to get it maintained?**

Subject to funding availability, the District performs creek maintenance in reaches where it has permanent right of way. Right of way can be either land that the District owns or land on which it owns an easement for performing maintenance. On creeks where the District does not own right of way, responsibility for maintaining a watercourse or creek is the responsibility of the property owner.

The steps needed to get a creek maintained by the District in the cases where it legally can, are to notify Operations and Maintenance staff and request maintenance service. That request will be evaluated in terms of need, severity, environmental considerations, and schedule. Once the District determines that the work needs to be done, a work order is written and permits are applied for. In this example, which involves sediment removal, permits would be needed from the California Department of Fish and Game and the Corps. Water quality certification would be needed from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

If the creek is privately owned, the property owner is also required to have the same permits and clearance and a permit from the District before work is performed.

28. **Fifty years ago, residents never had this problem. The city of Morgan Hill has gone from 6,000 people to 29,000 people. All the water from Tilton Avenue, and from one hillside to another, goes into that little ditch. That little ditch was never intended to take that much water. Our government has spent billions of dollars all over the world but can't fix a lousy little problem here that would only cost a few million? The bridges are built. We have standing water for 24 to 48 hours. We have to double-feed the animals to keep them from getting sick. The sewers do not work, nothing works.**

The roadside ditch along Tilton Avenue is in the county area. The City has actually improved the drainage in this area by installing a system of underground detention pipes/tanks in Peeble Avenue. See Answer No. 8.

29. **PL-566 is an admirable project, but everything has been focused on this one big PL-566 project, while the little small stuff is not getting done. Let's not wait for the PL-566 to solve these problems because that will be a long ways away. Why not have Board members work on the project and have some of the people (maintenance people) take care of the creek on an interim basis in order to solve the immediate problems. Let's use some of the money the District now has to resolve the small problems. The whole San Martin area is flooded. Gilroy is taken care of by PL-566 and Morgan Hill has the big ditch by Watsonville Road. In between, in San Martin, there is no highway for the water to run off to, so it just spreads out.**

Most of the creeks in the south Santa Clara County are grossly inadequate to carry any significant flood flows. With present funding levels, the District will likely only be able to work on interim projects in cooperation with property owners such as described in No. 6 above.

30. **What is the District's jurisdiction on floodplains?**

The District advises relative to activities within the floodplain and delineates floodplain mapping. The District's jurisdiction for permitting is for activities within 50 feet of a creek bank. Activities within the floodplain may be subject to the City's flood hazard ordinance or other law.

The District's jurisdictions extends only 50 feet from the top of the creek bank. Floodplain resolutions are the jurisdiction of the cities and county but the District does advise and recommend when appropriate.

31. **Maple Leaf RV Park bermed their property which has impacted other properties in the vicinity. What is the District doing to protect the other properties in the vicinity of this RV Park?**

See above Response No. 30. The District has advised the owner of the Maple Leaf RV Park of the potential impact the berm may have on other property. The District has addressed those activities which relate to the District's jurisdiction but does not have jurisdiction nor policing power over activities within the floodplain.

32. **A resident on Maple and East Middle has been coming to these meetings for 20 some years. There is an urgency here to form an efficiency committee to address the issues and to get permits processed so something can be done.**

The NRCS and the District have been working closely with all the regulatory agencies and resolve most of the major issues for the Corps' 404 permit. We are hopeful that the permit may be issued near the end of this year. See Answer Nos. 3 and 29 for funding issues.

33. **A resident on Monterey Road cannot get in and out of his property for days unless he has a 4-wheel drive vehicle. He wants to know what will be done about it.**

Assuming that the resident is asking when the flooding will be eliminated and that there is a flood control project scheduled that will eventually correct the problem, the District can provide an approximate completion date. Based on the current federal funding level, the completion of the PL-566 is approximately the year 2011.

34. **Mr. Keith Anderson of the Department of Fish and Game said that the Department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the District regarding routine maintenance of channels. The Department of Fish and Game has given the District the green light to do maintenance work. What are the other constraints on the District that are preventing the District from doing some of this work?**

For sediment removal and erosion repair activities, the District must first have Section 404 permits issued by the Corps. It must also obtain Section 401 water quality clearances from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. For vegetation management activities such as woody growth removal on natural creeks, not identified in the Memorandum of Understanding for routine maintenance in unimproved streams, a streambed alteration agreement from the Department of Fish and Game is required. Another constraint that may affect doing maintenance work is funding.

35. **A resident on Llagas Creek has water backing up. Squaw Hawk Subdivision made the creek wider but where the water ends up, which is in this little narrow place, has never been finished. This resident has letters dating back to 1973, wherein the District promised to buy their lands. To date, the District has done nothing about it. The water flows into the whole house. If the District had finished their project and had done what they said they would do, there wouldn't be this mess.**

See Answer Nos. 36 and 41.

36. **A resident owns two properties. One property on Spring Avenue has water coming up into the house through the slab floor. He wants to know how this could happen? Since this property is in the city of Morgan Hill, is the City responsible for providing a drain? The other property is on Hale, north of Llagas. Every year the owner has to clean out the trench because the water comes off the main street and into his garage. Since this property is also in the city of Morgan Hill, is the City responsible for taking care of the drain in front of the property? The owner is losing money on his investment because of the water damage. It would be nice if the City would do something about it.**

See Answer No. 19

37. **This resident is looking out for San Martin. He suggested that instead of doing all the cleanup upstream, that the District start downstream so the water has some place to go when it gets there.**

This comment is duly noted.

38. **There is an Industrial/Commercial Use Permit in San Martin. Before that creates unfavorable situations, the Supervisors, the District, or someone should drain all the septic tanks because leach fields will be plugged up with surface water. How will the leach fields operate and drain, as related to future development in San Martin?**

This question is unclear. San Martin is within the county's jurisdiction relative to development, use permits, and the approval of leach fields. The county's General Plan addresses these subjects in a fair amount of detail. The county is aware of the potential impacts of the proliferation of septic systems and the treatment of effluent in subsurface soils along with issues relative to groundwater and nitrate levels in the area.

39. **This resident has lived on Fifth Street for 45 years and has water running alongside his property. The District came by about 12 years ago and their way of fixing the problem was to deepen it. Where are the bankers and real estate agents? Nobody told him he was in a floodplain and should have flood insurance. Where are the insurance agents and why are they not here? Is FEMA or the insurance companies going to fix our land?**

FEMA encourages property owners in flood hazard areas to purchase flood insurance. The insurance is intended to cover most of the damage caused by flooding.

40. **In Morgan Hill, north of LaCrosse, there was a flood in the field that has a huge sewer storm drain opening in the ground that is big enough to fit a kid or a man into. The concern for the safety of children near the area needs to be addressed. Who is in charge of maintaining those storm drains? Do they check these storm drains yearly?**

The City maintains all public drainage facilities in the streets and those installed in the public utility easements in private land. All of the City's drainage infrastructures were built within the industry's standard safety guidelines. The City has a routine annual drainage maintenance program. Nonetheless, if a citizen notices an unsafe condition in any of the City's drainage infrastructure, he or she should contact the City's maintenance division at 776-7333 immediately for appropriate corrective action.

41. **There are two problems: (1) We have a flood control system that has not been completed or maintained and (2) What can we (the public) do to stop the City from continuing to approve of this unbridled growth until we get the District to catch up with the already existing growth?**

True, the flood protection system is not yet complete and will not be for many years. Completion of the current PL-566 project work will not solve all the flooding problems in south Santa Clara County. The District does provide maintenance with available funds to those portions of the project that have been completed. Direction to curtail growth should be through your elected officials; however, this may not be the answer. All flood protection measures will not be completed for many years. The City is aware of the limited storm drainage system and routinely coordinates development or mitigates for impacts of increased runoff through the construction of detention facilities.

42. **Could the creeks be redirected through larger parcels?**

Creeks can at times be redirected although it is a cumbersome permitting process through the Corps, the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and others. If approved, the relocation would include a variety of mitigation measures and would be costly.

43. Don't the regulatory agencies understand that cleaning a creek is an ongoing and continuous process and that the District should not need to routinely renew their permits to clear out the creeks?

The regulatory agencies' position is that they are correct in requiring the District to obtain permits in accordance with current regulations.

44. If people dedicated their land for flood control, are they at risk for liability issues that come into play because of the trail use for motorcycles, horse back riding, etc.? This is a conflict.

Easements dedicated for flood control purposes do not allow for a public use.

45. What is the total funding that the District has for South Zone flood control?

Local Revenue—The South Flood Control Zone is one of five flood control zones in Santa Clara County. Each zone has a separate benefit assessment revenue source with rates that are voted on by zone. The District receives a portion of the 1 percent property tax that it distributes to each zone according to the amount that is received from each zone for flood control. Each zone also has a reserve available for construction and income from investing those and annual operating funds. The current practice is that each zone is treated as a fiscal entity with its own revenues and its own expenditures. The South Zone revenue is about $3 million per year.

Federal and State Funding—In addition to annual income, the South Zone is participating with the federal and state governments on the Llagas Creek project. In this project, the NRCS is responsible for the channel constriction and the District is responsible for land purchases, utility relocation, and bridge construction. Under the state's Department of Water Resources Subventions Program, the state had agreed to reimburse the District for close to 100 percent of the local costs on this project.

Unfortunately, both the state and federal funding sources have been significantly slowed down over the past several years. Funding of the channel work prior to 1990 was $1 million to $2 million per year. Since than, federal funding has been closer to $500,000 per year and there is no indication of any change in this program. The state subventions program had been adequately funded until 1992-93. For the past 4 years, the state has not funded this program. The South Zone should receive some funds from the Proposition 204 funds this year and Assemblyman Frusetta introduced AB 97 to provide some funding of the subventions program. If this measure becomes law, it will help for past expenditures but does not address future subvention reimbursements that would be very important for completion of the Llagas Creek project.

46. How can we be assured that the PL-566 project will be issued the necessary permits (404 permit) and not be rejected again?

The NRCS and the District have been working closely with all the regulatory agencies to resolve all their issues and concerns in the past few years. It appears that the proposed watershed plan is acceptable to them. However, there are still a few remaining issues that need to be addressed in the final update Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, which should not hold up the issuance of the 404 permit.

47. This project will not help us now because it is going to take 11 years to complete. Is there anything the District (and the public) can do to get something done faster?

See Answer No. 1.

48. What funding revenues does the District now have?

Borrowed Funds—In 1988 the District borrowed $12.3 million to build the local project facilities and purchase land for the Llagas Creek project. The funds were borrowed by issuing Certificates of Participation which are long-term debt instruments similar to bonds. The decision to borrow these funds was based on a funding process in which the South Zone would "front" the funds needed for the local facilities and would be reimbursed for this work by the State through its flood control subventions program. The decision to borrow the funds was based on receiving reimbursement from the state in a relatively timely manner, and that the interest earned on the funds, when they were not being used to fund land or construction, would help meet the zone's debt service on the borrowed funds.

The South Zone currently has $2.7 million available to front construction or land purchases if there is a reasonable chance that the funds will be reimbursed by the state. But the state has not funded its subventions program for the past four years. Without assurances of reimbursement, the South Zone cannot pay interest on debt. The state and the District are currently in disagreement over the disposition of an additional $3.5 million that has been reimbursed to the District. This amount is in an escrow type account, and may be available to the South Zone once the matter is decided. Also see response to Question No. 45.

49. Will you put Mr. Jeff Rodriguez's, NRCS, phone number on the responses?

Mr. Rodriguez's (NRCS) telephone number is (408) 636-8029.

50. Are there other agencies that are involved in this project?

The NRCS is the lead agency and the District and Loma Prieta Conservation District are the local sponsors for this project. In the permitting process, many reviewing state and federal agencies are involved in this process; Corps, Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Control Board, Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

51. Mr. Rodriguez, NRCS. We need to get the governmental agencies together and get the solutions identified; perhaps a scaled-down version of the proposed project and alternative solutions.

District staff is currently working to develop a flood management program and to prepare an action plan to secure the funding necessary for the implementation of that program. This program will include a scaled-down version of the project and other alternatives including the interim fixes.

52. How can the people contact the District's Well Section?

You can call Mr. Mike Duffy in the Wells Section, (408) 265-2507, extension 2743, or Mr. Dave Zozaya, extension 2650.

53. Where are the retention ponds that handle the runoff from the commercial development at Dunne and Cochrane? Where is the retention pond on Llagas Road, in the back of Cristaff Drive, that was supposed to service all the runoff coming down Llagas Road that was supposed to have been built in the past 10 years. Where is it? Who is going to build it, the City or the District?

The developer built retention ponds northwest of Cochrane Road behind the commercial buildings as well as the large open field at the south end of Jarvis Drive. The creek behind Christopher Lane has been enlarged to detain water. The District's PL566 project will improve the creek to the Hillwood Lane area. The City intends to construct a detention pond/park at the corner of Hale and Llagas Road when funding is available. Please see Answer No. 13.

54. Take care of the runoff from development upstream. Don't keep pushing it on to downstream land.

The City has a "Measure P" development control policy as well as a storm design policy to protect the interest of the residents and other property owners. See Answer No. 8.

55. By the time we hear the flood warning on TV or radio, we are already under water. What can the District or City do to get better communication so that we can get warnings sooner?

The District will be working closely with the City during future flood events. Each agency will identify hot spot locations and share this information with each other and then convey this information to the media advisory including your local TV Station 34. The City and the District will also have people in each other's Emergency Operations Centers when there is a Level II emergency which will help to decide what actions need to be taken during flood events. Even with these efforts there will be only a limited amount of time available to notify citizens. People should be alert to National Weather Service (NWS) information that is available using an inexpensive radio receiver. The NWS also broadcasts weather warnings on the Cable TV (Channel 23) which provides continuous weather updates including local forecasts and warnings every 10 minutes.

56. What is the legality of a private homeowner cleaning out his/her creekbed? Which agencies have what programs with regulations?

A private property owner can legally clean out the creek after obtaining the necessary approvals. For sediment removal and erosion repair activities, the owner must first have Section 404 permits issued by the Corps, Section 1603 streambed alteration agreements from the Department of Fish and Game, and a permit from the District. He must also obtain Section 401 water quality clearances from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. For vegetation management activities such as woody growth removal, a streambed alteration agreement from the Department of Fish and Game is required.

Sample letter

Dear Elected Representative *(see list provided for the elected officials in your area)*:

Our *(My)* property was damaged by the flooding on Llagas Creek through South Santa Clara County in early January. *(Describe where you live and describe the damage you suffered.)*

We need your help encouraging Gov. Pete Wilson and your colleagues in the California Legislature to release disaster relief funding for flood victims in areas designated as disaster sites, such as the Morgan Hill area.

Please continue your efforts to ensure that flood control funding is provided at the state level. In particular, we support Assemblyman Frusetta's AB 97 and ABX 3 which ask the Legislature to restore funding for the flood subventions program. Funding this program will allow the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of Morgan Hill to work together to complete the Llagas Creek flood protection project and protect us from future flooding.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address here)

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES CONGRESS

REPRESENTATIVES
(Dear Representative/Mr., Ms.)

Washington, DC Office

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
118 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
ph: (202) 225-3072 (District 16)
fax: (202) 225-3336

Congressman Tom Campbell
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0515
ph: (202) 225-2631 (District 15)
fax: (202) 225-6788

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
308 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
ph: (202) 225-8104 (District 14)
fax: (202) 225-8890

Congressman Fortney "Pete" Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0513
ph: (202) 225-5065 (District 13)

District Office

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
635 North First Street, Suite B
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ph: (408) 271-8700
fax: (408) 271-8713

Congressman Tom Campbell
U.S. House of Representatives
910 Campisi Way, Suite 1C
Campbell, CA 95008
ph: (408) 371-7337
fax: (408) 371-7925

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
ph: (415) 323-2984

Congressman Fortney "Pete" Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
22320 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 500
Hayward, CA 94541
ph: (510) 494-1388
fax: (510) 494-5852

SENATORS
(Dear Senator)

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0501
ph: (202) 224-3553

Senator Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0502
ph: (202) 224-3841
fax: (202) 228-3954

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
1700 Montgomery Street, No. 240
San Francisco, CA 94111
ph: (415) 403-0100
fax: (415) 956-6701

Senator Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
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San Francisco, CA 94111
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fax: (415) 536-6841

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
DISTRICT OFFICES

Honorable Ted Lempert
California State Assembly
4149-B El Camino Way
Palo Alto, CA 94306
PHONE: 415-856-2181
FAX : 415-856-2187

Honorable Mike Honda
California State Assembly
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San Jose, CA 95113
PHONE: 408-269-6500
FAX : 408-277-1036

Honorable Jim Cunneen
California State Assembly
901 Campisi Way, Suite 300
Campbell, CA 95008
PHONE: 408-369-8170
FAX : 408-369-8174

Honorable Liz Figueroa
California State Assembly
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Fremont, CA 94539
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FAX : 510-440-9035

Honorable Peter Frusetta
California State Assembly
321 First Street, Suite A
Hollister, CA 95023
PHONE: 408-636-4890
FAX : 408-636-4903

Honorable John Vasconcellos
California State Senate
100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 209
San Jose, CA 95113
PHONE: 408-286-8318
FAX : 408-286-2338

Honorable Elaine Alquist
California State Assembly
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Santa Clara, CA 95050
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FAX : 408-296-3052

Honorable Bill Lockyer
California State Senate
22634 Second Street, Suite 104
Hayward, CA 94541
PHONE: 510-582-8800
FAX : 510-582-0822

Honorable Bruce McPherson
California State Senate
701 Ocean Street, Room 318A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PHONE: 408-425-0401
FAX : 408-425-5124

Honorable Byron D. Sher
California State Senate
260 Main Street, Suite 201
Redwood City, CA 94063
PHONE: 415-364-2080
FAX : 415-364-2102

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ON 1997 COYOTE CREEK FLOODING

Please join the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) for an open house and public meeting to discuss the District's flood control program in your area and to share your experience and concerns regarding the recent flooding along Coyote Creek. Two meetings will be held at different locations for your convenience:

Monday, March 3, 1997
at the Roosevelt Community Center
21st Street and Santa Clara Street

Wednesday, March 5, 1997
at the Leninger Center in Kelley Park
1300 Senter Road

A Spanish interpreter and a Vietnamese interpreter will attend the meetings.

AGENDA

6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Open House
- 1997 flood map, displays, and photos
- View and comment on maps at your convenience
- Talk with District staff on an individual basis

7 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Public Meeting
- Welcome and introductory comments

7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
Public Participation
- Your opportunity to ask questions and share your concerns
- What did you observe and experience?

8:15 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.
Respond to Issues of Concern
- District staff will respond to issues of concern and/or commit to follow up with information

8:55 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Final Comments and Thank Yous

We look forward to talking with you and responding to your questions or concerns. Staff from the District and City of San Jose will be available to answer your questions. If you have any questions prior to the meeting date, please call us at (408) 265-2600.

The District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please advise Randy Talley in advance of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600, extension 2611. Advanced warning allows more time to provide the best accommodation.

CT0210d

COMMONLY ASKED MAINTENANCE QUESTIONS

1. **Concern about creek cleanup now: trees and limbs, large trees fell into creek. District crew left some chunks to flow downstream. The creek needs cleanup. Homeowners are not able to manage problem. Need help from District to cleanup debris.**
The creek will be inspected for blockages, downed trees, and other obstructions to flow after the winter rains are over. In the areas where the District has right of way, work orders will be written and the work will be scheduled to be done before next winter's rains. In the areas where the District does not have right of way, there is the option of a creek cleanup by the community in which the District could participate. Some homeowners organizations have expressed interest in organizing a community effort to cleanup the creek. What is needed to start this activity is to obtain the permission of the property owners where the cleanup is proposed and to obtain a District permit. The permit should be coordinated through the Community Projects Review Unit.

2. **Property line goes to the center of the creek, getting deep erosion. Is there a plan to assist owners to repair banks and protect houses?**
The District cannot legally improve or maintain a creek if it does not have a permanent right of way for such purposes. Unless a permanent right of way is granted and accepted by the District, maintenance of the creek must continue to be the owner's responsibility and must be carried out in accordance with our permit requirements under Ordinance 83-2. Owners should be aware that merely being willing to dedicate a permanent right of way is not in itself sufficient guarantee that the District will accept such dedication or that it would give priority to any needed maintenance thereon. Accessibility to the work area, relative severity of this problem compared to others in the South Flood Control Zone, and availability of funds to do this work would affect the decision to assist owners to repair the creek banks.

3. **Why hasn't maintenance been done all along the creek?**
The main limitation for the District to have done maintenance all along the creek is that it lacks permanent right of way over much of the creek. On those sections of creek that are privately owned and may have been in need of maintenance, often times the reasons are that the owners are either unaware that it is their responsibility or they cannot afford the cost to do the work.

4. **Are maintenance easements permanent? What limitations are placed on the District's rights?**
Maintenance easements must be permanent before the District can legally do work. Temporary easements are not acceptable. Maintenance easements would limit the District to only maintenance activities. However, standard flood control easement language allows the District to construct, operate, and maintain a channel for flood control purposes. Before exercising the right to construct a flood control project, the District must first prepare an Engineer's Report, prepare an environmental document in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and hold public hearings to receive comments on any proposed project.

5. **What about a City/District sponsored cleanup? Can the District help?**
As stated in the answer to Question No. 9, the District can assist in creek cleanups sponsored by the community and/or the City. This has been a District Board policy since 1970. The District will cooperate with these groups in every way possible, even to the extent of providing District-owned trucks and equipment to haul away the trash and rubbish collected at one of these outings.

May 30, 1997

Dear Resident:

Subject: Coyote Creek Postflood Meetings

Thank you for attending one of the public meetings held on March 3 and 5, 1997. These meetings were held to help us better understand your concerns and frustrations, particularly after the recent January flooding. As a result of those discussions, we believe we are better prepared to be more responsive to your needs in the future.

Enclosed are our responses to the questions asked at the meetings regarding the 1997 flooding. The responses were jointly prepared by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) and the City of San Jose.

Finally, please accept my apologies for not getting this information to you sooner. I wanted to coordinate preparation of these responses with the City of San Jose as well as several District departments to ensure that responses to your questions were as complete and accurate as possible. Some of the responses required more research and took longer than anticipated.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with District staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Talley at (408) 265-2607, extension 2611, or me at extension 2328.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

David J. Chesterman
Project Development Manager

Enclosures

cc/enc: City Councilmember David Pandori
City Councilmember George Shirakawa
City of San Jose (Mayor and Director of Public Works)
East Zone Flood Control Advisory Committee Members
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

Ms. Joan Corsiglia
615 South 16th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Board of Directors (7), S. Williams, K. Whitlock, J. Wang, I. Shintani, J. Ortiz, M. Magill, K. McKenzie, M. Stone, R. Callender, K. Moss, S. Tippets, K. Whitman, T. Morse, M. DiMarco, J. Sutcliffe, V. Lico, R. Talley

RT:mt:CT0403e

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/ISSUES
MEETING NO. 1, COYOTE CREEK FLOODING
ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY CENTER
March 3, 1997

1. **Confidence is not inspired very much due to our mislabeling of 15th and 16th Streets. We sent letter in 1995 saying his house is not in danger of flooding—now he's more concerned about what will happen to his house. An old plan called for (removing) part of his house. He thinks there may need to be a levee also.**

   There is no plan to solve the flooding problems along Coyote Creek. However, these problems are high priority with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) and a study will begin when other studies are completed, staff is available, and future funding is certain. The planning process is extensive and will require several years and include public meetings and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

2. Repeat No. 1. Basement flooded 16th Street. What are plans for Shuttie house.

   See answer to Question No. 1 above. On an interim basis, the District is considering the purchase of severely damaged houses. If purchased, the houses will be demolished and a property management plan developed to identify the use for the remaining lands.

3. On Sunday left with no concern. Wish they had early warning. Need a better communication system.

   By Sunday morning, flooding had already occurred on Coyote Creek and the City of San Jose (City) had been notified. The City was also advised that the flow in the creek was continuing to increase and the peak was expected to occur on Monday, January 27, at sometime between midnight and noon. As a result of this experience, we know which properties may flood for a similar size event and earlier notification will be possible.

   City of San Jose staff recognizes that strategies and procedures for alerting citizens to potential emergencies need to be reviewed. It should be recognized that there are limits with respect to City of San Jose authority and resources and in some cases the City of San Jose has to rely on outside sources for information. With respect to potential flooding, the information available to the City of San Jose is usually not definitive and only generalized notification is usually possible regardless of the method used to alert people.

   The new Emergency Alert System which replaces the Emergency Broadcast System will allow the City of San Jose to make much better use of broadcast media to disseminate information. Since the media provide an important outlet for information, relations with all media are also under review.

4. **First attack (anxiety) was not knowing what was going to happen. No one cared to tell him of flood threat. Wishes he had known. He feels this was a major betrayal by the City. <u>Wrath</u>**

   There are maps available at the City and District which describe those areas that are subject to the 100-year (1 percent) flood. It is not known which specific properties are subject to

flooding from lesser flood events as was the case with the January 26 and 27 flooding on Coyote Creek. See answer to Question No. 3 above.

5. **Third flood on 17th Street since 1982 and 1983. Had background (i.e., knowledge of flood threat). No visible threat on Saturday night. Big flood came down. Question is: property line goes to the center of the creek, getting deep erosion. Is there a plan to assist owners to repair banks and protect houses?**

   The District cannot legally improve or maintain a creek if it does not have a permanent right of way for such purposes. Unless a permanent right of way is granted and accepted by the District, maintenance of the creek must continue to be the owner's responsibility and must be carried out in accordance with our permit requirements under Ordinance 83-2. Owners should be aware that merely being willing to dedicate a permanent right of way is not in itself sufficient guarantee that the District will accept such dedication or that it would give priority to any needed maintenance thereon. Accessibility to the work area, relative severity of this problem compared to others in the East Flood Control Zone, and availability of funds to do this work would affect the decision to assist owners to repair the creek banks.

6. **Olinder neighborhood association representative talked to Mr. Castro. He had contacted District on Saturday and was brushed off by District. The time from when water goes over dam till it hits neighborhood is 36 hours. That should be enough time to inform neighbors. Six hours more notice would have made a difference. Can we put something in place to give information of impact to the residents.**

   On Saturday, the rain had subsided considerably and the National Weather Service (NWS) had downgraded the flash flood "warning" to a "watch." It was anticipated that the peak rainfall and subsequent peak runoff had passed. It is generally believed that the travel time of flow from Anderson Dam to William Street is considerably less than 36 hours, about 8 to 12 hours. As a result of this flooding experience, we know which properties may flood for a similar size event and earlier notification will be possible. The District is also conducting our "Flood Safe" program to help people in known flood hazard areas be especially aware to NWS warnings and alerts.

7. **Sandbag issue: was told District is not going to pick up. Were told to put in garden. Need a way to get rid.**

   The winter is not yet over and that the residents may want to leave the sandbags in place until the chance of high flows in Coyote Creek had passed. After the winter rains have ended, the District plans to establish pick-up points where residents can take the no-longer-needed sandbags. Details of this pick-up program have not been developed. We will inform the public after the plan has been finalized.

8. **How will we communicate with neighbors about how we will use the property (i.e., four houses proposed for purchase).**

   Property owners adjacent to the homes being considered for purchase will be notified by mail of any plan development and Board of Directors (Board) actions.

9. **Concern about creek cleanup now: trees and limbs, large trees fell into creek. District crew left some chunks to flow downstream. The creek needs cleanup. Homeowners are not able to manage problem. Need help from District to cleanup debris.**

The creek will be inspected for blockages, downed trees, and other obstructions to flow after the winter rains are over. In the areas where the District has right of way, work orders will be written and the work will be scheduled to be done before next winter's rains. In the areas where the District does not have right of way, there is the option of a creek cleanup by the community in which the District could participate. Some homeowners organizations have already expressed interest in organizing a community effort to cleanup the creek. What is needed to start this activity is to obtain the permission of the property owners where the cleanup is proposed.

10. **Live across from park here. Watched creek. Visited by City of San Jose staff Sunday night. He'd like to commend their help.**

11. **18th Street property. For years City or County used to clean the creek. When he wants to pump water it's ours, when it needs to be cleaned it's his. The problem is that the creek needs to be cleaned better. WPA used to do a better cleanup job. First thing to do.**

With respect to the 18th Street property, the owner is advised to contact Operations and Maintenance staff to report a specific problem. We can then investigate his request and take the appropriate action. Although in the past, the creek may have been cleaned regularly, permanent right of way that would allow the District to continue to perform this work is random and discontinuous at best. See Question No. 9 for the options to clean the creek.

12. **Still have debris. Is there any place to drop it off?**

There is not a place to drop off debris at this time. See answer to Question No. 9.

13. **There is a lot of poison oak, beware.**

14. **16th Street South (Brenner) water came from (over) retaining wall 6 feet. By 5 p.m., Sunday, it was on terrace. Going up 4 inches per hour. Has never seen it higher than this. She panicked when she learned that the crest had not peaked. No TV warnings about local situation in our county. District has a longer lead time on Anderson. Need a better warning system.**

The peak flow in Coyote Creek is estimated to be about 6,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) near William Street at about 1:30 a.m. on Monday, January 27. This is the highest flow experience on Coyote Creek since an estimated flow of 10,000 cfs occurred in February 1922. The January 27, 1997, flow of 6,500 cfs is approximately a 15-year flood event, the 100-year event is 14,500 cfs. On Saturday, January 25, the District prepared a Media Advisory that stated that more rain could cause flooding and that residents near streams should prepare to leave. The NWS continually broadcasts weather information that is available using an inexpensive radio receiver. The NWS also broadcasts weather warnings on this channel. As a result of this flooding experience, we know which properties may flood for a similar size event and earlier notification will be possible. See answer to Question No. 3 above.

15. **Governments were not working together. How can the agencies respond to the concerns about no warning system.**

The District and all local governments work together every year on winter preparedness and before, during, and after flood events such as those which occurred in January. The District will continue to work with those agencies to develop an appropriate notification system for property owners subject to flooding. See answer to Question No. 3 above.

16. **Why has the flooding gotten worse? Her home's problem is worse than before. Why is it getting worse? Is it due to the amount of development?**

The problem is not getting worse. The probability of damaging flooding has remained basically the same since construction of Coyote and Anderson Dams, which significantly reduced the flood threat. Many flood victims think that because they never flooded before that something must have changed; somebody must have done something. The January 26 and 27, 1997, event is a good example because the runoff which caused the flooding came from the expansive watershed above the reservoirs where it remains essentially undisturbed. Another example might be the recent events in Yosemite Park, a completely undisturbed and pristine area, but it suffered disastrous flooding of historic magnitude.

The total maximum rainfall amount in 48 hours for the January 24 to 26 storm is less than the storms of 1982, 1983, January and March 1995, as well as January 1 and 2, 1997. However, the unfavorable distribution and concentrated intensity of the rainfall made the January 24 to 26 the worst flood we have ever experienced since the existence of Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs. There were four periods of very intense rain falling in the upper watershed of the Coyote Creek. These four periods occurred around the following time:

- Friday, January 24, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (NWS warned of severe storm of about 8 inches in 24 hours may hit our area Friday night through Saturday)
- Saturday, January 25, 6 a.m. to noon (Here NWS downgraded the forecast, the news media said that we dodged the bullet of a big storm)
- Sunday, January 26, 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- Sunday, January 26, 8 a.m. to noon

Each rainfall period contributed flow to the creek system. However, the flow was receding at the stream gage location at Coyote Creek upstream of the Coyote Dam from 3 p.m., Saturday, January 25, to about midnight. Lots of people were showing relief after learning that the Saturday big storm did not materialize. Then the early Sunday morning rain was really a surprise with such intensity that it registered 6/10th of an inch in 1 hour (3 a.m. to 4 a.m.) at the Coit Ranch Rainfall Station which is equivalent to a 15- to 20-year event for the station.

This early morning rain resulted in rapid rising of the creek stage. The closely following midmorning intense rain caused the river flow stage to push even higher, flooding worse than previous events. Even with both reservoirs full, the reduction of the peak flowrate from Anderson Reservoir was fairly significant. It is estimated that the peak reduction was about 2,000 cfs from the inflow level of about 8,000 cfs down to an outflow of 6,000 cfs.

17. **District must choose: (1) hold less water in Anderson or (2) do something so the creeks can hold their runoff.**

As part of the solution for the flood problems along Coyote Creek, many alternatives would be evaluated. One of the alternatives could be some type of upstream storage option.

18. **City is allowing building that makes the problem worse. How does District work with City and County to be sure the flow can be handled by the creeks? She's worried this will get worse and worse. Doesn't bode well for the future.**

See answer to Question No. 16.

19. **Attention needs to be paid to Coyote now.**

20. **Major erosion problem behind retaining wall. Resident is caught. Is there some way to work together to solve the personal problems on their property? Needs help to correct the problem—perhaps technical or financial assistance.**

See answer to Question No. 5.

21. **Soil engineers told Brenner (regarding erosion issue) that there is a need for a solution along the entire creek. It means District and City must work with the homeowners. Needs to be an organized concentrated effort.**

We agree that bank stabilization work sometimes requires that the project extend across more than one property to be effective. If, based on an engineering analysis of the creek stability, an areawide correction of these problems was warranted, the decision of when work would be done would depend on there being permanent right of way, funding, regulatory clearances, and a higher priority than similar projects in the East Flood Control Zone.

22. **Further downstream. Search and rescue did not know what to do with sandbags. Did not know how to protect their home. Did not know where water would come in.**

Fire Department personnel that assisted homeowners that were being flooded may have been focused on personal safety issues and possible evacuations. They may not have received training in how to place sandbags. The District will make available flood fighting information to the City to distribute among staff responding to floods.

23. **Damage in his home—Rock Springs. What type of damage can be expected? What happens to the structure due to water on the floor? Need someone expert in flood damage.**

Suggest contacting contractors with expertise in this area.

24. **South 17th, wish they had been notified. She saw that water was surrounding cottage. Had 1½ hours to evacuate then had to leave. Six feet in cottage. It got worse and worse.**

See answer to Question Nos. 3 and 14 above.

25. **Thank you to neighbors, City, District, Conservation Corps. Could not have made it without help from all. Need more accurate warning.**

26. **Why wasn't water released earlier from the reservoir?**

At Anderson/Coyote Reservoirs, a rule curve was adopted in the early 1980s to provide a balance between providing a reliable water supply and providing additional flood storage capacity.

27. **Have we investigated modifying Anderson so that it could be evacuated faster? Is it economically feasible?**

The District is currently evaluating whether and how best to increase our discharge capacity at Anderson Reservoir in order to get back to the rule curve quicker.

28. **It was a bad experience. Don't want it to happen again. Looks to the District for leadership. Very willing to help the District help the neighborhood. Do we have a plan? What can they do to help us (in the political world for example)?**

Any solution to the problem will require time, money, and public support. The District has underway an effort to define the flood protection program beyond the year 2000. The Board would be interested in any comments individuals might have regarding future needs. In the interim, people are encouraged to be aware of the flood hazards and take appropriate measures to flood proof their homes or purchase flood insurance.

29. **Could city redevelopment money be used for part of this Coyote Creek area solution?**

The Redevelopment Agency may only fund projects in specific redevelopment areas over which it has jurisdiction. The Redevelopment Agency has funded drainage projects within these areas and has funded park facilities built along the Guadalupe River. As for flood control facilities, under various laws, codes, and charters, construction of these facilities is the proper responsibility of the District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The City of San Jose and Redevelopment Agency have actively supported these agencies in this role before legislative committees in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

30. **What will happen to the property (i.e., four houses proposed for purchase) after it is purchased?**

See answers to Question No. 2 and Question No. 8 above.

31. **What is a 1 percent flood event?**

The flood which has a 1 percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any 1 year. Commonly referred to as 100-year flood.

32. **What did District do with weather service's flood warning?**

On Friday, January 24, the NWS predicted heavy rainfall over the next 24-hour period. The District contacted each city in Santa Clara County and the County Office of Emergency

Services and advised them of the forecast, the status of our reservoirs (spilling), and the potential for flooding on all creek channels in the county. On Saturday, January 25, the District issued a Media Advisory to all Bay Area media advising that more rain could cause flooding, the availability of sandbags, and that residents near streams should be prepared to leave. On that same day, the NWS downgraded its flash flood "warning" to a flash flood "watch."

33. **Are you aware of how poor of a job you (San Jose) did? We knew nothing.**

34. **I called mayor's office to find out who was in charge of flooding? Didn't know (Monday morning).**

35. **Can people here sign up to be on a phone tree as a way to communicate about what's going to happen? Key residents would become contact people.**

36. **Can we use the fire department before the flood to warn residents? Why can't they go out with a bull horn letting residents know?**

    Fire Department personnel must be on standby at all times to respond to life-threatening emergencies and will respond to flooding situations if rescue is needed. The Fire Department is not organized nor has the resources to provide advanced warning of potential hazards. As part of the review discussed under Issue No. 1 above, a determination will be made of which staff is appropriate for making advanced warnings.

37. **March is a rainy month. Why did we not continue releasing water in last 24 hours.**

    Beginning around December 23 until the storage was at the rule curve about March 1, the District was maximizing releases from Anderson Reservoir. The only exception to this was that the outlet was closed when Anderson began spilling and was reopened after the flood peaks had passed.

38. **What is capacity of Coyote and Anderson reservoirs?**

    The capacity of Anderson/Coyote is about 112,000 acre-feet.

39. **What was the condition of Coyote and Anderson before January 1 event?**

    Before the January 1 event, Anderson/Coyote Reservoirs were about 7,000 acre-feet above the rule curve and the reservoir had about 28,000 acre-feet of storage available.

40. **What if we go below the rule curve? What is the reason for the rule curve? Why not be below the rule curve now? More we have in it, the less flood control it offers.**

    The rule curve is a policy our Board has adopted on how to operate the reservoir to provide the best balance of water supply and flood control. The rule curve was developed to maintain water supply benefit but extract additional flood protection benefits from the reservoirs.

41. **Why did 6,500 cfs flood now when District thought damage would occur at 8,000 cfs?**

The 8,000 cfs used by the District to indicate a possible flood threat is from the 1979 studies done by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the National Flood Insurance Study. It indicates the flow upstream of Williams Street at which the creek capacity would be exceeded and floodwaters would flow into the several hundred homes east of the creek. The District does not have survey elevation information on individual homes. Following winter seasons when we have experienced flooding, the District collects and documents what had occurred in a flood report. The 1982-83 report showed extensive flooding from Coyote Creek in North San Jose, Alviso, and Milpitas but nothing in the Williams Street area or further south. The 1981-82 report showed only minor flooding. The District did not conduct postflood public meetings in the 1980s. One reason we have initiated these meetings is to gather some information from the public so we can improve our knowledge of what happened. Several people who flooded this year have also indicated they flooded in 1982 and 1983. Based on all this information, the District is revising our indicator flood level. It is obvious now that some properties adjacent to the creek will flood at a lower flow rate and we have been working with the City to develop a notification system in anticipation of these lower damaging flow rates.

42. **Did the pump back from Highway 101 make a difference in the flooding?**

The pumping by Caltrans to clear Highway 101 did not affect the flooding on Coyote Creek. The flows being pumped are relatively small compared to the creek flows. If anything, the highway likely served as a temporary detention facility for floodwaters since the creek was actually flowing back through the pipes for some time.

43. **Did the high tide affect the flooding?**

Tides do not affect flood flows in the creek south of Highway 237. The rising and falling of the creek levels people often confuse with tide cycles but in actuality it simply reflects the intensity and distribution of the rainstorm and how it collects in the watershed.

44. **Somebody missed some part of the flood record. These areas flooded in 1982 and 1983. District should have known.**

After the 1982 and 1983 flooding, the District prepared flood reports. The 1982 report states as follows: "Coyote Creek flooded at two other locations in downtown San Jose near William Street where no damages were reported and at 17th Street where one house was reported flooded." The peak flow on Coyote Creek was recorded at 4,153 cfs between March 31 and April 13, 1982. The 1983 report stated that the peak flow on Coyote Creek at Edenvale was 5,030 cfs. There is no record of any flooding on Coyote Creek in the vicinity of William Street during the April flooding of 1983. Also see answer to Question No. 41 above.

45. **Why is there not another gage to monitor flow besides at Edenvale?**

It has not been determined that an additional gauge on Coyote Creek is necessary between Edenvale and Montague Expressway.

46. **What about imported water? Can that make up part of the difference? Water bills are higher now.**

Imported water normally provides about half of our total water supply, however, it is more costly. Generally, our local supply is our cheapest source. We attempt to balance our local and imported sources so as to minimize its cost to the consumer.

47. **If residents don't have property that provides enough maintenance access, what can we do then?**

See answer to Question No. 5.

48. **Why hasn't maintenance been done all along the creek?**

The main limitation for the District to have done maintenance all along the creek is that it lacks permanent right of way over much of the creek. On those sections of creek that are privately owned and may have been in need of maintenance, often times the reasons are that the owners are either unaware that it is their responsibility or they cannot afford the cost to do the work.

49. **Are maintenance easements permanent? What limitations are placed on the District's rights?**

Maintenance easements must be permanent before the District can legally do work. Temporary easements are not acceptable. Maintenance easements would limit the District to only maintenance activities. However, standard flood control easement language allows the District to construct, operate, and maintain a channel for flood control purposes. Before exercising the right to construct a flood control project, the District must first prepare an Engineer's Report, prepare an environmental document in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and hold public hearings to receive comments on any proposed project.

50. **What about a City/District sponsored cleanup? Can the District help?**

As stated in the answer to Question No. 9, the District can assist in creek cleanups sponsored by the community and/or the City. This has been a District Board policy since 1970. The District will cooperate with these groups in every way possible, even to the extent of providing District-owned trucks and equipment to haul away the trash and rubbish collected at one of these outings.

51. **Saturday, May 17, there is a countywide creek cleanup. Will mail out information with these answers.**

52. **How does the City "control" the runoff? There is more runoff due to development. Is there a way to control the building so that flooding does not increase?**

See answer to Question No. 16. In general, land development and urbanization increase both the peak flow rates and the total volume of storm water runoff from the developed area and, therefore, may increase the frequency and severity of flooding. This effect is most severe in the upstream ends of drainage basins and on steep terrain. This situation exists due to the construction of pavements, structures, and efficient drainage systems.

Several factors in San Jose serve to moderate these impacts. Urbanization is largely confined to flat terrain and the downstream end of the drainage basins. In addition, urbanization has taken place where rainfall intensity and volume are relatively low (14 inches annually in Downtown San Jose versus up to 60 inches annually in the Santa Cruz mountains). In some neighborhoods, the combination of flat terrain, limited storm drain capacity, and levee construction has produced complex conditions where flooding may actually be decreased as well as increased.

The City of San Jose has adopted ordinances that control development within a floodplain. Development is not prevented, but new construction must meet certain requirements. The most basic requirement is that the habitable spaces of all new buildings must either have comprehensive flood protection or be built with the lowest finished floor at or above the water surface elevation for the 100-year flood as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition, the construction cannot block overland flow of the flood waters.

While issuing building permits does not require a public hearing for most new development in San Jose, there is some level of public review. Changes to the land use general plan require City Council approval and review by the Planning Commission, both in open session. All zoning changes and property subdivisions also require City Council approval as well as review by the City of San Jose's Planning Commission or Planning Director at a public hearing. Under current conditions, zoning changes or subdivisions are commonly needed to implement residential projects; therefore, these projects commonly come under public scrutiny. Nonresidential projects not requiring a zoning change are reviewed in a public forum as part of obtaining a site development permit. Additionally, the developers of projects with significant environmental impacts are required to write an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration (ND) defining all known impacts and proposing solutions for mitigating the significant impacts. Impacts to both drainage and quality of surface waters must be addressed. These EIRs and NDs must be issued to the public for review and EIRs are subject to public hearings prior to approval.

53. **Building still makes more runoff that goes to the creek—what does this add to the flood problems?**

See answer to Question Nos. 16 and 52.

54. **Clarify—new buildings must have first floor above 100-year flood. What is the elevation of the 100-year flood?**

The National Flood Insurance Program was established to make flood insurance available for those properties in defined flood prone areas. FEMA defines the extent of these flood prone areas and estimates the depth of flooding within them. This information is used to set the insurance rates. All lenders subject to federal government regulation now require such insurance for real estate loans for properties in the defined flood prone areas.

For a community to participate in the program, ordinances must be adopted that control development in flood prone areas. As discussed above, the City of San Jose has adopted such ordinances.

The elevation of the water surface for the 100-year flood event varies from place to place. It appears that it could be about 1 to 2 feet above the streets in the Williams Street area.

55. **Some of the areas that flooded are not mapped as 100-year floodplain.**

The 100-year floodplain map is based on the Flood Insurance Studies and is generally pretty accurate. Where we can document connections, we will request the maps be revised.

56. **Creeks used to clean themselves before the dams were put in. Now we don't get the flushing action. WPA used to clean it.**

This comment has been noted.

CONCERNS, ISSUES, AND QUESTIONS
COYOTE CREEK POSTFLOOD MEETING
LENINGER COMMUNITY CENTER
March 5, 1997

1. **Who is responsible for cleaning out the creek—refrigerator, tires, etc?**

Subject to funding availability, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) performs creek maintenance in reaches where it has permanent right of way. Right of way can be either land that the District owns or land on which it owns an easement for performing maintenance. On creeks where the District does not own right of way, responsibility for maintaining a watercourse or creek is the responsibility of the property owner. An exception to only working where there is right of way is that the District can perform maintenance work in an emergency to the extent of its resources and its ability. Another exception is that the District can participate in a community effort to cleanup creeks.

2. **How high will water be for residents to be given a warning to evacuate?**

It is not possible to give a specific number or flow rate at which citizens may be given a notice to evacuate. Many factors enter in to such a decision, including: the status of the reservoir storage, the saturation level of the watershed, and the weather forecast. An evacuation order is extremely disruptive to a community, particularly if it is given prematurely, and cannot be based on a single factor but must be based on the overall safety of the community residents.

3. **What number can residents call to get a live person for information—when water is coming up? Recording does not help.**

When a storm or flood warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS), the District will be operating on a 24-hour a day basis and may be reached at our usual number, (408) 265-2600. During nonbusiness hours, the same number may refer you to a number at which you may speak to a real person. During an emergency, you may also call 911. The people staffing that service know how to reach District personnel.

City of San Jose staff recognizes that strategies and procedures for alerting citizens to potential emergencies need to be reviewed. It should be recognized that there are limits with respect to City of San Jose authority and resources and in some cases the City of San Jose has to rely on outside sources for information. With respect to potential flooding, the information available to the City of San Jose is usually not definitive and only generalized notification is usually possible regardless of the method used to alert people.

The new Emergency Alert System which replaces the Emergency Broadcast System will allow the City of San Jose to make much better use of broadcast media to disseminate information. Since the media provide an important outlet for information, relations with all media are also under review.

4. **Where were permits obtained for Springbrook complex?**

City of San Jose.

5. **When will cleanup along creek such as fences happen?**

In areas where the District has right of way, the creek cleanup targets large, heavy, bulky items such as downed trees, refrigerators, and couches that could move under high flows. These items sometimes migrate to bridge piers or trees and catch other debris, forming dams and obstructions to flow. Trash along fences is generally low priority work, but would be done if crews had been dispatched to the same area to clear obstructions to flow. The District does not have right of way in the area that this question refers to. The land is owned by San Jose Water Company. The resident may want to direct this question to them.

6. **What do we do with sandbags?**

The audience was reminded that the winter was not yet over and that the residents may want to leave the sandbags in place until the chance of high flows in Coyote Creek had passed. After the winter rains have ended, the District plans to establish pick-up points where residents can take the no-longer-needed sandbags. Details of this pick-up program have not been developed. We will inform the public after the plan has been finalized.

7. Concern for people who are being displaced. Lack of affordable housing. January 1 Congress changed regs. so that disaster victims do not get priority. National concerns.

8. Businessowner along creek lost $50,000. Knew the flood was coming. Conditions—high dams, saturated watersheds. Concerns that Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) put common sense into work. Rule curve could be done differently to provide greater flood protection.

The District was making every effort to stay on the rule curve at Anderson/Coyote Reservoirs in order to provide a balance of flood protection and water supply. Modification of the rule curve would result in a decrease in water supply yield. The District's Board of Directors (Board) adopted this curve to maximize flood control with no or only very insignificant impacts to water supply.

9. Asked if were in danger of flooding. If District is monitoring, why did the neighbors not get more notice? She got wrong information. District should have this down to a science at least be better.

There are many thousands of properties in Santa Clara County that are subject to flooding. Although we do know the areas that are subject to flooding from the 100-year flood, we do not know at what level or rate various properties will flood from events with a lesser frequency. Those who live near unimproved creek channels such as Coyote are at greater risk from flooding. The District began notification of cities in Santa Clara County on Friday, January 24, as a result of the rainfall forecasts issued by the NWS. The District also issued a Media Advisory on Saturday, January 25, that stated that more rain could cause flooding and that residents near streams should prepare to leave.

City of San Jose staff regrets that erroneous information was given out by any City of San Jose employee. Staff is strongly discouraged from giving out unverified information or personal opinions. Staff will continue to be reminded of this during any emergency.

10. **There were workers (Why didn't they know?) driving around in trucks. Did the flood control project downstream of Montague cause the back up?**

The flood control project downstream of Montague Expressway worked exceptionally well under record flows and protected hundreds of homes and businesses. The project does not affect any of the flood problems further south of Montague Expressway.

11. **Notices did not specifically list Coyote Creek, why not?**

Forecasts cannot be isolated to a single watershed. Warnings or watches, for example, are usually for the western slopes, eastern slopes, or urban areas.

12. **Is this portion of Coyote next to be flooded? Are we moving the problem around?**

The District constructs projects starting with the furthest most downstream end first. In this way as projects progress upstream there is always an adequate facility downstream to accept the water.

13. **We should notify the National Guard to move sandbags. Well in advance.**

14. **A couple of hours warning would have allowed homeowners to save possessions.**

See answer to Question No. 3 above.

15. **It takes ≈30 hours to ready the neighborhood. Also have monitoring. Q—Address the timing of flows.**

It is generally believed that the travel time from Anderson Dam to William Street is considerably less than 30 hours, about 8 to 12 hours. It also must be pointed out that there is a substantial amount of inflow to Coyote Creek from creeks, surface runoff, and storm drains below Anderson Dam which also contribute to the flooding potential.

16. **Storage remaining—dams did not have the capacity. Concern is not enough flood storage behind the dams.**

The reservoirs were originally constructed for water supply purposes. In the 1980s, the District adopted a rule curve at Anderson/Coyote Reservoirs in order to provide additional flood protection. Because of the pattern of rainfall in late December and throughout January, it was impossible to lower the reservoir to the rule curve, even though maximum releases were being made from the reservoir. However, during the flood event, the reservoirs did reduce the peak flows about 20 percent. The primary purpose of the dams is to fill up in the winter to provide water supply but the District has developed the rule curve to extract additional flood protection benefits.

17. **Characterization of this flood. How bad is this one? Frequency, how does it compare (i.e., to past floods)?**

This flood is considered as the flood of record for Coyote Creek at Edenvale (near Branham Lane) after the completion of the Coyote-Anderson Reservoir System. The stream gage recording provides flow information. The frequency for the recent floods are as follows:

Flood magnitude and frequency at Coyote Creek at Edenvale:

Year	Peak Flowrate	Frequency (Return Period)
1982	4,150 cubic feet per second (cfs)	8 to 9 years
1983	5,000 cfs	10 to 12 years
1995/January	2,000 cfs	3 to 4 years
1995/March	1,250 cfs	2 to 3 years
1997/January 1 and 2	1,800 cfs	3 years
1997/January 26 and 27	≈6,500 cfs	15 years

The historical floods for Coyote Creek before Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs were built were estimated as follows:

- February 10, 1922—10,000 cfs
- March 7, 1911—25,000 cfs

18. **What is chance of this happening again?**

Our estimate for the January 26 and 27 flood is a 15-year event. This means that it has a 7 percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any year. A 100-year flood has a 1 percent of being equalled or exceeded in any year.

19. **Springbrook flow was already over banks at 7 a.m.**

20. **Where are we now in respect to the rule curve?**

With the very dry February, the District was able to get back to the rule curve on Anderson/Coyote Reservoirs about the first week of March. On March 2, reservoir storage went below the rule curve. The available storage below the rule curve specified storage has increased every day. On March 11, the rule curve specified storage was 98,600 acre-feet and the actual storage was 94,194 acre-feet.

21. **Twenty years and it's never happened. How much warning can the residents expect?**

The peak flow in Coyote Creek is estimated to be about 6,500 cfs near William Street at about 1:30 a.m. on Monday, January 27. This is the highest flow experienced on Coyote Creek since an estimated flow of 10,000 cfs occurred in February 1922. The 6,500 cfs is a 15-year flood event, the 100-year event is 14,500 cfs. Also see Question No. 9 above. The NWS continually broadcasts weather information that is available using an inexpensive radio receiver. The NWS

also broadcasts weather warnings on this channel. As a result of this flooding experience, we know which properties may flood for a similar size event and earlier notification will be possible.

22. **Since this has happened, they were told did not need flood insurance. What does District recommend now? They have dropped insurance (70s and 80s).**

If you are located in a designated flood hazard area or you have experienced flooding, then flood insurance may be an appropriate consideration for protecting your property.

23. **Sandbags were picked up.**

24. **Problem—when you see the water rising, why doesn't District tell people that there will be a problem?**

See Question Nos. 3, 9, and 21 above.

25. Ten a.m. on Sunday morning, water was already over bank.

26. Kept hearing from Fire Department that there would be no problem. Already up to her knees.

See answer to Question No. 9 above.

27. When fire or flood, it's better to say there is a problem than to say no problem.

See answer to question No. 9 above.

28. Got sick from the water. Did not think he would be affected. Has a paper from the doctor.

The City of San Jose issues general warnings about contaminated flood waters every fall and before major storms. All storm water runoff should be considered to be contaminated and people should always exercise caution when coming into contact with it. Flood water is not usually tested by City of San Jose staff unless unusual contamination is suspected.

Under voluntary evacuation procedures, residents are not prevented from returning to their homes at any time regardless of the prevailing conditions.

The sanitary sewer pump station in the Rock Springs Drive area flooded on or about January 26, 1997. Staff responded as soon as notified, put up warning signs in the area, and began cleanup as soon as it was feasible to do so. The pump station did not fail; it was turned off by staff as a safety precaution. Flood water in the area was tested and the results showed that contamination levels were typical of those found in most storm water and not cause for special concern.

29. **Helping people take things out (reference No. 28). Fever—medicine did not help him. Tried to get cars out to save motors. At Welch and Rock Springs worked all day Monday. He though he must help because people needed help. Q—Can he get help with his medical bill because it was very high?**

The District can't help with medical bill because we were not responsible for either the contamination of the water which caused illness or the flooding itself. Persons have the right to consult with a legal advisor of his or her choice on this matter and, if it seems appropriate, file a claim against the entity (if any) that he or she or their advisor may believe to be responsible.

30. **What is chain of command regarding water coming up and that water was contaminated?**

See answer to Question No. 28 above. As with all actions City of San Jose staff takes, the City Manager or her designee is in responsible charge of staff during any emergency. The Fire Chief is in charge of the Operations Section at the Emergency Operations Center. In the field, the Police or Fire Department designates an incident commander to be in charge of field operations at each separate location or event.

31. **What will we do if this happens again? Who will notify residents? Tell people we think this will happen! Resident got erroneous information from staff (fireman, etc.).**

It is very likely that this will happen again. As a result of this flooding experience, the District knows at what level some of the properties on Coyote Creek will flood. The City of San Jose has similar information as do the citizens, both those who flooded and those who didn't. There are sandbags available from the District and the NWS provides a continuous weather update (see Question No. 21 above). All these factors should help us be better prepared for the next flood event but they will not prevent the flooding.

32. **It's better to say we don't know rather than under estimate. No information is better than wrong information.**

See answer to Question No. 9 above.

33. **How is flow measured and height to determine the crest?**

There are four stream gauging stations on Coyote Creek as follows: above Coyote Reservoir, below Anderson Dam, at Edenvale upstream of where Coyote Creek crosses Highway 101 (near Hellyer Park), and at Montague Expressway. These gauges continuously record the elevation of the water at these locations, the measured elevation is equivalent to a flow rate for that particular station.

34. **How much higher this year than 1995? How do we know?**

See answer to No. 17 above.

35. **How high can it get?**

The January 26 and 27 flood is estimated at a 15-year event with flows somewhat greater than 6,000 cfs. A 1 percent (100-year) flood would be more than twice as great (14,500 cfs) and would affect hundreds of homes and businesses.

36. **How many other areas will flood if it gets higher? Do we know where it will flood if it gets higher than this time?**

See answer to Question No. 35.

37. **Who determines how much water should be stored at Anderson?**

The District determines how to operate the reservoirs. Operations and Maintenance staff is responsible for operation of the reservoirs.

38. **What factors or criteria are used to determine when water should be stored or released?**

The rule curve at Anderson/Coyote was based on historic rainfall and runoff and on the District's ability to utilize the water stored in the reservoir. The curve was based on the minimum storage amount that provides for no loss in long-term yield from the reservoir for water supply. When the reservoir begins spilling, the discharge pipe is closed. After the flood peak has passed, the discharge pipe is then opened to bring the reservoir back to the rule curve. When storage is above the rule curve specified storage, the operations objective is make releases to achieve the rule curve storage. When the storage is below the rule curve, storage is determined considering water supply demands, alternative supplies, system capacities, water rights requirements, emergency storage provisions, Division of Safety of Dams safety requirements, and other institutional constraints.

39. **Does Board work with any department in City of San Jose in making the decisions? If so, who or what city department?**

The District does not work extensively with the City of San Jose in making decisions regarding reservoir operations. However, when our operations may impact them or when there is a chance of flooding, the District works closely with the City of San Jose to minimize impacts.

40. **Where does District get water for supply in drought years? What is additional cost if water must be purchased?**

During droughts, the District generally must import additional water to meet demands. Imports can come from our contract agreements with the State and Federal Government, from water that we have banked outside of the county, or from water purchased from other organizations in the state that are willing to sell water. The District makes every attempt to get the cheapest high-quality water possible; however, if needed to meet demand, the District sometimes must buy very costly water.

41. **At what points along creek is water measured? How is it measured? Are records kept?**

See answer to Question No. 33 above. Continuous records of all streamflow stations in Santa Clara County are maintained by the District.

42. **What happened different this year compared to previous years with more rain? Why did this one cause flooding?**

The problem is not getting worse. The probability of damaging flooding has remained basically the same since construction of Coyote and Anderson Dams, which significantly reduced the flood threat. Many flood victims think that because they never flooded before that something must have changed; somebody must have done something. The January 26 and 27, 1997, event is a good example because the runoff which caused the flooding came from the expansive watershed above the reservoirs which remains essentially undisturbed. Another example might be the recent events in Yosemite Park, a completely undisturbed and pristine area, but disastrous flooding of historic magnitude.

The total maximum rainfall amount in 48 hours for the January 24 to 26 storm is less than those storms occurred in 1982, 1983, January and March 1995, as well as January 1 and 2, 1997. However, the unfavorable distribution and concentrated intensity of the rainfall made the January 24 and 26 the worst flood we have ever experienced since the existence of Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs. There were four periods of very intense rain falling at the upper watershed of the Coyote Creek. These four periods occurred around the following time:

- Friday, January 24, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. (National Weather Service warned of severe storm of about 8 inches in 24 hours may hit our area Friday night through Saturday)
- Saturday, January 25, 6 a.m. to noon (Here National Weather Service downgraded the forecast, the news media said that we dodged the bullet of a big storm)
- Sunday, January 26, 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- Sunday, January 26, 8 a.m. to noon

Each rainfall period contributed flow to the creek system. However, the flow was receding at the stream gage location at Coyote Creek upstream of the Coyote Dam from 3 p.m., Saturday, January 25, to about midnight. Lots of people were showing relief after learning that the Saturday big storm did not materialize. Then the early Sunday morning rain was really a surprise with such an intensity that it registered 6/10th of an inch in 1 hour (3 a.m. to 4 a.m.) at the Coit Ranch Rainfall Station which is equivalent to a 15- to 20-year event for the station.

This early morning rain resulted in rapid rising of the creek stage. The closely following midmorning intense rain caused the river flow stage to push even higher, flooding worse than previous events. Even with both reservoirs full, the reduction of the peak flowrate from Anderson Reservoir was fairly significant. It is estimated that the peak reduction was about 2,000 cfs from the inflow level of about 8,000 cfs down to an outflow of 6,000 cfs.

43. **Eight a.m., Monday—Heard on radio that storm water on 101 was being removed and there was no chance of flooding. Is there a relationship between the pump out from 101 and the Monday flooding?**

The pumping by Caltrans to clear Highway 101 did not affect the flooding on Coyote Creek. The flows being pumped are relatively small compared to the creek flows. If anything, the highway likely served as a temporary detention facility for floodwaters since the creek was actually back flowing through the pipes for some time.

44. **Are other government agencies involved in the decisions in Question Nos. 38 and 39 above? State, federal, etc.**

The primary government agencies that have jurisdiction over our operations at the reservoirs are the State of California Division of Safety of Dams and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Division of Safety of Dams has set storage criteria to reduce flood potential due to earthquake.

45. **Are there existing diversions from the creek that could lessen the problems on Coyote?**

There are no flood protection facilities on Coyote Creek other than the two dams and the new levees north of Montague Expressway.

46. **Land around Springbrook—Park District, San Jose Water Company—Did the Water Company have a clue that something was going to happen to their land? Don't they care? Do they have information?**

The Park and Water Company received the same notices and warnings as the general public.

47. **Prior to flood, has District done any clean out of the creek?**

During the declared emergency that followed the January 1 floods in Morgan Hill, District crews removed blockages at several locations in Coyote Creek. Very little clean out work was done last year before the winter due to the lack of right of way. However, in 1995 faced with the prospect that Anderson Reservoir could spill and acting during a presidential-declared state of emergency, the District removed substantial blockages in Coyote Creek from Highway 237 to Anderson Dam. This work was performed at a cost of $250,000. Anderson Reservoir did not spill in 1995. Nonetheless, the work that was done at that time removed many obstructions to flow that could have been a problem in 1997.

48. **Regarding trash and debris from construction (Nordale Street) and damaged goods. Need help with disposal.**

The City Office of Emergency Services representative acknowledged the request. Dumpsters had been made available to residents in other areas where homes were damaged by the floods. He would see if the same assistance could be made available to the homeowners in the Rocksprings neighborhood.

49. **Was Anderson and Coyote at rule curve any time during January? Was it over rule curve at any time?**

Anderson and Coyote were over the rule curve for the entire month of January. The reservoir was nearly full after the new year's storms and because of the wet weather we were unable to get back to the rule curve.

50. **Last public meetings regarding Coyote, when were they? Such as neighborhood meetings. She recalls meetings in 1970s.**

The District had developed a comprehensive plan for nearly all the creeks in the East Zone in anticipation of a bond election in the early 1970s. Through a series of public meetings, the District did not identify broad-based support for a bond measure so the District's Board determined to proceed on a project-by-project basis in order of priority.

51. **Were any conclusions reached? What actions have taken place since then?**

See answer to No. 50 above. The District has proceeded to implement several projects such as the new levees on Coyote Creek north of Montague Expressway. The District currently has three federal projects active in the East Zone on Upper Penitencia Creek, Lower Silver Creek, and Berryessa Creek.

52. **Regarding rain stopped. Is it normal for it to take 2 days for the flow to crest?**

It takes time for the rainwater traveling through fields to reach the creeks. This time period may last longer than the rainfall period especially for large watersheds like Coyote which is over 300 square miles. Therefore, it is quite possible that when the rain stops falling, the creek stage will still be rising.

53. **What if it kept raining?**

If it kept raining, the flooded area would spread wider because the river stage will be pushed upward due to more rainwater draining into the creek channels. Depending on how much more rain occurred, the flood damage could have been far more extensive.

54. **Follow-up comments. Residents received no information. Channel 11 told resident they did broadcast information.**

55. **It's hard for residents to know who to believe when they hear conflicting information.**

See answer to Question No. 9 above.

56. **The notices came too late for the citizens to be able to do anything.**

See answer to Question No. 3 above.

57. **At least come through the neighborhood with bull horns.**

See answer to Question No. 3 above.

58. **What about ability to break into TV programming? When will we have the ability to do that?**

See answer to Question No. 3 above.

59. **Is a public meeting required to issue permits for construction or buildings in the floodplain? (Tom described California Environmental Quality Act process).**

In general, land development and urbanization increase both the peak flow rates and the total volume of storm water runoff from the developed area and, therefore, may increase the frequency and severity of flooding. This effect is most severe in the upstream ends of drainage basins and on steep terrain. This situation exists due to the construction of pavements, structures, and efficient drainage systems.

Several factors in San Jose serve to moderate these impacts. Urbanization is largely confined to flat terrain and the downstream end of the drainage basins. In addition, urbanization has taken place where rainfall intensity and volume are relatively low (14 inches annually in Downtown San Jose versus up to 60 inches annually in the Santa Cruz mountains). In some neighborhoods, the combination of flat terrain, limited storm drain capacity, and levee construction has produced complex conditions where flooding may actually be decreased as well as increased.

The City of San Jose has adopted ordinances that control development within a floodplain. Development is not prevented, but new construction must meet certain requirements. The most basic requirement is that the habitable spaces of all new buildings must either have comprehensive flood protection or be built with the lowest finished floor at or above the water surface elevation for the 100-year flood as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition, the construction cannot block overland flow of the flood waters.

While issuing building permits does not require a public hearing for most new development in San Jose, there is some level of public review. Changes to the land use general plan require City Council approval and review by the Planning Commission, both in open session. All zoning changes and property subdivisions also require City Council approval as well as review by the City of San Jose's Planning Commission or Planning Director at a public hearing. Under current conditions, zoning changes or subdivisions are commonly needed to implement residential projects; therefore, these projects commonly come under public scrutiny. Nonresidential projects not requiring a zoning change are reviewed in a public forum as part of obtaining a site development permit. Additionally, the developers of projects with significant environmental impacts are required to write an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration (ND) defining all known impacts and proposing solutions for mitigating the significant impacts. Impacts to both drainage and quality of surface waters must be addressed. These EIRs and NDs must be issued to the public for review and EIRs are subject to public hearings prior to approval.

60. **How is extra runoff controlled from new building? What controls it?**

See answer to Question No. 59 above.

61. **Summarize floodplain development and flood insurance program regulations in the written responses.**

See answer to Question No. 59 above. The National Flood Insurance Program was established to make flood insurance available for those properties in defined flood prone areas. FEMA defines the extent of these flood prone areas and estimates the depth of flooding within them. This information is used to set the insurance rates. All lenders subject to federal government regulation now require such insurance for real estate loans for properties in the defined flood prone areas.

For a community to participate in the program, ordinances must be adopted that control development in flood prone areas. As discussed above, the City of San Jose has adopted such ordinances.

The elevation of the water surface for the 100-year flood event varies from place to place. It appears that it could be about 1 to 2 feet above the streets in the Williams Street area.

62. **The Edenvale gauge data should have been enough to predict that neighborhoods would flood.**

The Edenvale gauge is a good indicator of flows in Coyote Creek. However, there is also inflow to Coyote Creek from other creeks, surface runoff, and storm drains below the Edenvale gauge.

63. **Is it somebody's job to be watching the creek?**

During periods of heavy rainfall forecasts and NWS advisories, the District continuously monitors local rainfall, reservoir storage, and streamflow for the entire area of Santa Clara County.

64. **Why was the knowledge of when the neighborhoods would flood mistaken (lost, misunderstood) between (since) 1982 and 1983 (flooding) and this flood?**

The flow experienced in January 1997 was greater than that in 1982 and 1983 (see Question No. 21 above). After the 1982 and 1983 flooding, the District prepared flood reports. The 1982 report states as follows: "Coyote Creek flooded at two locations in downtown San Jose near William Street where no damages were reported and at 17th Street where one house was reported flooded. The peak flow on Coyote Creek was recorded at 4,153 cfs between March 31 and April 13, 1992." The 1983 report stated that the peak flow on Coyote Creek at Edenvale was 5,030 cfs. There is no record of any flooding on Coyote Creek in the vicinity of William Street during the April flooding of 1983.

65. **Neighbors want to know more about the flood threat and what they can expect and what actions they can take.**

Maps of potential flood hazard areas are available for viewing at the City of San Jose and District.

66. Is soil moisture a consideration in setting the rule curve (see Question 38)?

Soil moisture is a factor in determining runoff that may occur during storm events. Watershed conditions including soil moisture are considered in the design hydrology which is used to develop the rule curve.

67. What will be done to get rid of the additional debris and material that has accumulated in the creek?

The creek will be inspected for blockages, downed trees, and other obstructions to flow after the winter rains are over. In the areas where the District has right of way, work orders will be written and the work will be scheduled to be done this year before next winter's rains. In the areas where the District does not have right of way, there is the option of a creek cleanup by the community in which the District could participate. Some homeowners organizations have already expressed interest in organizing a community effort to cleanup the creek. What is needed to start this activity is to obtain the permission of the property owners where the cleanup is proposed and to obtain a District permit. The permit should be coordinated through the Community Projects Review Unit.